



Bible Study & Reflections

Thank you for joining me to dive deeper into the *Kingdom in the Redwoods*. This Bible Study is designed to help you explore and reflect on some of the spiritual truths woven into the story. It's organized by theological topic rather than chapter by chapter. So, it's best to read *Kingdom in the Redwoods* all the way through before starting the Bible Study. This is a great resource for youth ministries, homeschool study, or any other group or individual study.

Each study topic contains citations to related Bible passages to enrich your knowledge. At the end of each topic, there's a Reflection area for you to listen to God's voice, meditate on His Word, and give thanks and praise to Him. It is my prayer that this Bible Study stirs your heart in new ways to live with confidence, courage, and peace of mind, knowing that you are a member of God's royal family, and a victor over the world.

1. God as Creator

The first four words of the Bible tell us much about God and His creation, “In the beginning, God...” God created the entire universe out of nothing (the Latin phrase *ex nihilo* means out of nothing). Before God created, nothing existed other than God himself. No space, no matter, and no time. God is the artist who created everything, including all space, matter, and time. He is apart from His creation but is intimately and personally involved in it. A.W. Tozer (1897-1963) describes it this way, “The truth is that while God dwells in His world He is separated from it by a gulf forever impassable. However closely He may be identified with the work of His hands, they are and must eternally be other than He... He is transcendent above all His works even while He is immanent within them.”

God created the universe with purpose and meaning – to bring glory to Himself. Not only did God create the universe, but He continues to sustain it day after day. When you study the sciences such as biology, chemistry, geology, astronomy, and physics, you are learning the infinitely complex order and design of God’s creation. As the sovereign creator of the universe, God rules over His creation toward His ends. The world God created reveals much about who He is, which is known as God’s general revelation. Spending time in nature appreciating the goodness, beauty and infinite complexity of God’s creation can help you draw closer to God.

King Yasha is the artist king of Himmel. We learn that he created the kingdom and he sustains it each day with his paintings. Consider the time and care he puts into his paintings and his desire to bring delight to the citizens of Himmel. Now consider the time and care God has put into the universe and His desire to bring delight to us through His creation.

- a. How does God see His creation? (*Read: Genesis 1-2*)

- b. In Chapter Twelve of *Kingdom in the Redwoods* (An Audience with the King), King Yasha describes his paintings. Can you see similarities to God’s creation and sustaining authority over our world?

- c. What scenes from the Parsons’ ranch and Himmel point to the majesty of God’s creation?

- d. Describe things in your world that amaze you about God’s very good creation.

- e. What can we know about God through His creation? (*Read: Romans 1:18-25*)

f. How does God's wisdom relate to His creation? (*Read: Psalm 104:24*)

g. Find a place of undisturbed nature and observe the goodness, beauty and complexity of God's creation. Read and meditate on *Psalm 19*. Ask God to reveal Himself to you in new ways.

h. Reflection:

2. Our Identity - Made in His Image

It doesn't take long for God to reveal our special place in His creation. Genesis 1 and 2 tell us we are made in His image. All people are made in the image of God. God is infinite and perfect and we are finite and imperfect, so clearly we are not identical copies of God. However, He has chosen to give us a portion of certain attributes He possesses. Theologians have wrestled with the question of what is meant by the "image of God" (Latin phrase *Imago Dei* means image of God). In what way do we reflect God's image? God's attributes that are often listed include our intellectual capacity to reason, our moral capacity to know right and wrong and desire justice, our ability to create beautiful things, and our desire to form deep and lasting relationships with others. These are certainly aspects of what it means, but not the full answer.

At the Fall, this image was distorted but not completely lost. The process of spiritual growth, known as sanctification, is transforming us into clearer images of God. The more we grow and mature spiritually, the more we reflect the image of God to people around us.

Being made in God's image means that our lives have great dignity and value to God. Whatever the culture may say about what is valuable, we can rest in the fact that we are treasures of great value to God.

King Yasha reveals that he makes people like himself, in his image. Recall the love he has for Aaron, Benji, Hannah and all the citizens of Himmel. Consider the important mission he gives to Aaron, Benji, and Hannah to represent him to help his kingdom flourish. Now consider how God has made you in His image and how amazing it is that you were made in the likeness of the God of our universe.

- a. Why are people special in all of God's creation? (*Read: Genesis 1:26-27*)

- b. In Chapter Twelve (An Audience with the King), King Yasha describes some of the ways people are made like him. What are they?

- c. Do you see these same things in yourself? In others?

- d. What does it mean to you to be made in the image of God? (*Read: Romans 8:29 and Ephesians 4:24*)

- e. What transformation does Jesus want to make in us as His image bearers? (*Read: Colossians 3:1-10*)

- f. Jesus has an interesting conversation with the chief priests, teachers of the law, and elders. They ask Him if it is right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar. Jesus uses

a coin to answer their question. Consider this passage and describe how it relates to us being made in the image of God. (*Read: Mark 12:13-17*)

g. Stop to consider and then celebrate being made in the image of God.

h. Reflection:

3. Our Purpose

Our purpose is connected to the fact that we have been made in God’s image. Our chief purpose is to glorify God with our lives. All that we think, say, and do should be aimed at bringing glory to God. According to God’s providence, you were born when God wanted, exactly in the location God wanted, as a member of the family God wanted, with all the physical, mental and personality traits God wanted. You are His unique image bearer designed to make a difference for His kingdom.

We have been called to be God’s ambassadors to represent Him and reflect His image in a world where many do not know Him. As our faith deepens and matures, we will more clearly reflect God’s image in our lives. This in turn will allow us to carry out our purpose more fully.

King Yasha gives important jobs to each citizen of Himmel that are designed to help the kingdom flourish. God has made you in His image with the purpose of bringing glory to Him and expanding His kingdom. Consider the amazing things He wants to accomplish through you in this world.

- a. What purpose has God given to us? (*Read: Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Matthew 5:13-16*)

- b. In Chapter Thirteen (Royal Banquet), what does Benji learn about following God’s plan for his life rather than his own plan?

- c. In Chapter Fourteen (Kingdom Tour), King Yasha asks Aaron, Benji, and Hannah to take on a dangerous mission to save the kingdom of Himmel. He tells them they have been called “for such a time as this.” Compare Esther’s calling to that of Aaron, Benji, and Hannah. (*Read: Book of Esther*)

- d. At times, is it hard to say yes to God’s purpose for us? Consider Jonah’s resistance to God’s calling. Have you ever resisted God’s calling? (*Read: Book of Jonah*)

- e. Are there things in your life that are preventing you from living out God’s purpose? (*Read: Hebrews 12:1-2*)

- f. Reflection: _____

4. God's Goodness

According to biblical scholar Wayne Grudem (1948 -), the goodness of God means that God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval. Thirteenth century theologian, Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), defined good as a measure of the degree to which something contributes or deters us from our proper human end. If our purpose is to honor and glorify God, then something is considered good by the degree to which it helps us honor and glorify Him. God is perfectly good, and all that He is and does is perfectly good. God's goodness includes His dealings with His creation, including us.

We learn that King Yasha is the source of all that is good in the kingdom of Himmel. While a part of Himmel, Shadowlands has had its goodness obscured; the perfect goodness of King Yasha remains under the ugliness. Consider the world around you and try to see God's goodness, even in the areas where that goodness may be obscured by an ugly exterior.

- a. Praise God's goodness. (*Read: Psalms 34:8, 106:1, 107:1, and 119:68*)

- b. Recall how God sees his creation (*Read Genesis 1:31*)

- c. What (or Who) is the source of all that is good? (*Read: James 1:17, Psalms 33:5, 84:11, and 145:9*)

- d. Why should God be the ultimate standard for what is good? (*Read: Luke 18:19*)

- e. What is Paul's admonition on how to see God's goodness in the world? (*Read: Romans 12:2*)

- f. Describe the goodness you see on the ranch and in Himmel.

- g. In Chapter One (Last Day of School), Aaron, Benji, and Hannah experience a world where ugliness has obscured God's goodness. Describe the people or things that obscure God's goodness in that part of the story.

- h. Stop to consider and then celebrate God's goodness you see in your own world.

- i. Reflection:

5. God's Beauty

According to Wayne Grudem, God's beauty means that He is the sum of all that is desirable, that His attributes are perfect and lack nothing. God is the source of all that is beautiful. Since God is the creator of all that is beautiful, He alone is the final standard of beauty. Augustine (354-430) believed that true beauty is found in God, and that beauty is a reflection of His goodness and truth. We can see God's beauty as we notice the unrivaled beauty of nature and God's creation that surrounds us. Consider the beauty across America as a small testimony to God's beauty: The rocky beauty of the southwest in Arizona and New Mexico; the turning of leaves in the New England states during the Fall season; the majestic landscapes of the Sierras and Rocky Mountains in California and Colorado; the stunning coastline along California, Oregon, and Washington and its stunning sunsets. God's beauty surrounds us if we stop to take it in as a gift from God.

King Yasha is the source of all that is beautiful in the kingdom of Himmel. Aaron is told to look to King Yasha as the ultimate and final standard of what is beautiful. This is good counsel because Malby seeks to deceive the people to destroy King Yasha's beauty. Consider the beauty in your world to help you see God's beauty more deeply and personally.

- a. Why does the human heart desire beauty? (*Read: Psalm 27:4, Ecclesiastes 3:11*)

- b. What does it mean that God is the ultimate display of beauty (*Read Psalm 73:25*)

- c. How should we think about beauty in people? (*Read: 1 Peter 3:3-4*)

- d. What are some of the beautiful things and people Aaron, Benji and Hannah find at the ranch and Himmel?

- e. Spend time in nature observing God's beauty — maybe your backyard, a park, a local hiking trail, a tree and the birds nesting their young, a flower — they all contain God's beauty. Describe a beautiful place in nature where you live. Try to present the tiny details that contribute to this beauty. Reflect on God's beauty as the artist who created this beauty.

- f. Stop to consider and then celebrate the beautiful things God has placed in your life?

- g. Reflection:

6. God's Truth

According to Wayne Grudem, God's truthfulness means that He is the true God, and that all His knowledge and words are both true and the final standards of truth. Augustine believed there is an objective truth and that God is the source of all truth. Truth is external to people who can't contemplate truth without having created it. This is what the Bible says about truth.

However, our culture offers a different view. There is a belief in relativism in our culture which holds that there is no objective truth and all claimed truth is merely a social construct devised out of bias, ignorance, hatred or other human impulses. As Christians, we can rest in the comfort that God is the source of all truth and we can look to Him for guidance and wisdom on what is true. We can seek His truth through the special revelation of the Bible, and the general revelation of His creation.

King Yasha is the source of what is true and real in the kingdom of Himmel. Since he is the artist who makes the kingdom, it makes sense that he is the best source and standard for what is true in the kingdom. Consider the battle over the truth in the kingdom of Himmel and the battle for truth in our own world.

- a. What does it mean to you that God is the only "true God"? (*Read: Jeremiah 10:10-11; John 17:3, 1 John 5:20*)

- b. How does it help you to know that God is the source of truth in the world? (*Read: John 14:6; 1 John 5:20*)

- c. Can God ever lie or tell us something that isn't true? (*Read: Hebrews 6:18; Proverbs 30:5*)

- d. The Bible is God's special revelation of truth to us. Does it give you comfort and confidence to know what you believe about the truth when many seek truth from other sources than the Bible? (*Read: John 17:17*)

- e. How are we to treat the truth as part of God's family, made in His image? (*Read: Ephesians 4:25; 2 Corinthians 4:2; Zechariah 8:16; Leviticus 19:11; Proverbs 4:24, 8:7, 12:17-19*)

- f. What impact do telling, and standing on the truth have on us? (*Read: John 8:32*)

- g. What role does the Holy Spirit have in our effort to see the truth? (*Read: John 16:13*)

h. How can we tell if we know God's truth? (*Read: 1 John 1:8, 2:4, John 3:21*)

i. What are some of the lies told by Malby and what is the truth according to King Yasha?

j. Reflection:

7. God's Wisdom

According to Wayne Grudem, God's wisdom means that God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals. Proverbs 9:10 says that fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Fear refers to a supreme reverence based on who He actually is, rather than a fear based on a misunderstanding of who He is (mistakenly believing He is not loving, not all powerful, or doesn't care for us). Think of fear as placing supreme trust in God because you know His full character.

A posture of humility is required to gain God's wisdom. In his book, *Humility: True Greatness* (2005), C.J. Mahaney (1953 -) states, "Humility is honestly assessing ourselves in light of God's holiness and our sinfulness." J.I. Packer (1926-2020) in his book, *Knowing God* (1973), says, "The effect of God's gift of wisdom is to make us more humble, more joyful, more godly, more quick sighted as to His will, more resolute in the doing of it and less troubled than we were at the dark and painful things of which our life in this fallen world is full." God is perfectly wise and we are not. Therefore, there will be times we struggle to see the wise path, and trusting God in faith becomes the wise path for us.

King Yasha is the ultimate source of wisdom in the kingdom of Himmel. Aaron, Benji, and Hannah learn that seeking the goodness, beauty, and truth of King Yasha is the way to wisely assess the kingdom of Himmel. Consider seeking wisdom in your own life by turning to God, the author of all wisdom.

- a. Why is the starting point to gain God's wisdom – humility? (Read: *Proverbs 1; Romans 11:33*)

- b. Meditate on God's wisdom. Even Job, after so much tragedy in his life, recognized God's perfect wisdom. (Read: *Romans 16:27; Job 9:4, 12:13*)

- c. How does God look at the false wisdom of the world verses His perfect wisdom? (Read: *1 Corinthians 1:18-29*)

- d. Do you see the wisdom in God's plan of salvation? (Read: *Ephesians 3:6-10*)

- e. How can we gain access to God's wisdom? (Read: *James 1:5; Psalm 19:7; Proverbs 3:5-6*)

- f. In Chapter Sixteen (Spy Craft), Aaron, Benji, and Hannah must decide if they will accept King Yasha's mission. How would you describe their wisdom?

g. What are some difficult decisions or choices you have had to make?

h. What was the guiding wisdom principle(s) you used to make the decision?

i. Reflection:

8. God's Love

According to Wayne Grudem, God's love means that God eternally gives of himself to others. Love in a Christian sense is self-giving for the benefit of others. J.I. Packer says that "...God's love is an exercise of his goodness toward individual sinners whereby, having identified Himself with their welfare, He has given his Son to be their Savior, and now brings them to know and enjoy Him in a covenant way." God is love. When we love God and others richly we bring joy to God's heart. A central part of our spiritual growth is to allow God to transform our hearts so that we more and more love what He loves.

We learn how deeply King Yasha loves the people of Himmel, even to the point of calling the ravens to attack him. He weeps over the sickness of the people of Shadowlands. Consider the love God has for you in sending His Beloved Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to give you eternal life.

- a. What does God's love for you mean to you personally, deep inside? (*Read: John 3:16, 15:13; 1 John 4:16*)

- b. In Chapter Thirteen (Royal Banquet), why did King Yasha weep at the thought of Shadowlands?

- c. In Chapter Thirteen (Royal Banquet), what are the two rules King Yasha tells Aaron, Benji, and Hannah that govern the kingdom of Himmel? (*Read: Matthew 22:36-40*)

- d. Why does Jesus say these are the greatest commandments? (*Read: Matthew 22:40*)

- e. What do these two commandments have to do with us being made in the image of God? (*Read: 1 John 4:7-8*)

- f. What does Paul say about the importance of love in the life of the Christian? (*Read: 1 Corinthians 13*)

- g. In Chapter Twenty-One (Attack Against the King), why did King Yasha call the ravens to himself?

- h. Can anything separate you from the love of God? (*Read Romans 8:31-39*)

i. Meditate on, then celebrate the depth of God's love for you.

j. Reflection:

9. Our King

We will spend our entire life and all of eternity learning more and more about who Jesus is. Scripture reveals that Jesus is the King of kings, Lord of lords, whose name is above every other name. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that King Jesus is Lord of all. John's gospel describes Jesus as the Word, which gives us what is known as special revelation through God-inspired Scripture. Jesus describes Himself as the bread of life, the light of the world, the door through which His sheep may enter salvation, the resurrection and the life for those who believe in Him will live, the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep, and the way, the truth, and the life who prepares a place for us in heaven.

The book of Daniel provides a glimpse into God's rule and sovereignty over the kingdoms of our world. Daniel and his friends are taken captive into the kingdom of Babylon. The king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, worshiped other gods, but came to know the Most High God through Daniel and ultimately gave praise and honor to God recognizing that He was the ruler over all kingdoms. His successor, Belshazzar, also worshiped other gods but Daniel interpreted his dream telling him that he had been "weighed in the balances by God and found wanting", so his kingdom would be taken from him. That very night, the Persians did attack and kill Belshazzar and take his kingdom.

Daniel was faithful to God even when living in a land that did not know God. Daniel teaches us that God rules in the kingdom of men and appoints over it whomever He chooses. The book of Daniel teaches us that there is the city of man and the city of God. As children of God, we are called to live as citizens of the city of God, even though we may dwell in the city of man.

King Yasha is the supreme king of Himmell. He sustains the kingdom to bring delight to its citizens. He rules with love and care for his people. Consider the rule of Jesus over our lives and how His reign over our lives is designed to transform us into His image and bring us joy and peace of mind that transcends understanding.

- a. Describe some of the ways King Yasha's nature and personality is a picture of Jesus.

- b. How did seeing King Yasha as an artist help you understand Jesus' relation to creation? (*Colossians 1:15-17*)

- c. Make a list of words that help you describe Jesus.

- d. Describe some of the events that show Daniel's faithfulness to God as his true king, even when living in a land, Babylon, governed by another king. (*Read: Book of Daniel*)

e. What lessons do we learn from Daniel in how to faithfully follow the king of the city of God even when dwelling in a world controlled by the city of men? (*Read: Book of Daniel*)

f. Read and meditate on *Psalm 144* and *Philippians 2:1-11*. Ask God to reveal to you his beauty and glory.

g. Reflection:

10. Our Heavenly Father & Family

When we put our faith in Jesus, we are adopted into a royal family. God the Father becomes our Father. When we put our faith in Jesus, we become members of His royal family for all eternity.

Dio is introduced late in *Kingdom of the Redwoods*, but he is present throughout the kingdom all the time. He is a loving father who invites Aaron, Benji, and Hannah into his family. Consider your heavenly Father and His personal love and care for you.

- a. Meditate on what it means that you are God’s son or daughter (*Read: 2 Corinthians 6:18*).

- b. What is the means by which we are adopted into the family of God? (*Read: Galatians 3:26; John 1:12-13; Galatians 4:4-6*).

- c. How does it make you feel to know that God planned for you to be in His family even before you were born? (*Read: Ephesians 1:5, 1 John 3:1-2; Romans 8:29*).

- d. The Bible uses an intimate personal term to describe our relationship with our heavenly Father – *Abba*. It would be the equivalent of calling him “daddy.” How does this change the way you think about God? (*Read Romans 8:14-17*)

- e. In Chapter Twenty-Two (*Kingdom Restored*), Dio describes his role as heavenly father compared to an earthly father. Write some words to describe your earthly dad, and then some words to describe your heavenly Father.

- f. How does being a member of God’s family impact how you wish to live? (*Read: Philippians 2:15*)

- g. Reflection:

11. Our Earthly Family

Family is a divine institution given to us as a blessing by God. The love of a mother and father nurtures a child to model the love God has for us. God has wired us to offer unconditional love to our children. We don't always live up to that measure, but family is the setting where love can most flourish. Your parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters are a blessing to cherish.

Aaron, Benji, and Hannah, learn to appreciate the joy that comes from family. Their parents and grandparents love them and seek to protect them, provide for them, and pass along wisdom and traditions that will help them flourish as they get older. Consider how God has given you your own family and think of ways you can enjoy the fun, joy, traditions and wisdom that is available through family.

- a. How does the Parsons family encourage you to be faithful to God? (*Read: Joshua 24:15*)

- b. How does God see children? (*Read: Psalm 127:3-5*)

- c. Describe Aaron, Benji, and Hannah's family relationship with Papa and Grandma?

- d. Describe special and beautiful things about each member of your family.

- e. In Chapter Twenty-Four (White Christmas), what does Aaron value more than the material gifts on Christmas?

- f. In Chapter Twenty-Four (White Christmas), what does Peter's gift to the children say about how he values his family?

- g. Describe the family relationship between Aaron, Benji, and Hannah

- h. What are your favorite family traditions – Christmas or other times?

- i. Meditate on, then celebrate your entire family as a gift from God.

j. Reflection:

12. A Broken World

God created a world that, in His words, was very good. But it didn't stay that way. Adam and Eve rebelled against God and sin entered the world. Along with the Fall, came selfishness, lying, stealing, cheating, meanness, and all the other ways people rebel against God and His way of living.

There is an "already, not yet" aspect to the world we live in. The kingdom of God has been started with the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus. When He entered our world and began His ministry, He often declared that the kingdom of heaven had come near. He meant that He had brought with Him the eternal kingdom of heaven where He ruled and reigned. If that's the case, why do we still see all the signs of brokenness in our world with liars, cheaters, and meanness? It's because the kingdom of heaven has been started, but is not yet completed, or consummated. The enemy still has sway over our world, so we live in an "already, not yet" age of history. We are called to live as citizens of the kingdom of heaven even though we still dwell in the kingdom of men with all its brokenness.

Aaron, Benji, and Hannah experience the broken world of liars, cheaters, and mean people in Chapter One. They find much more brokenness in Shadowlands. Consider your world and how God's goodness, beauty, and truth may have been obscured by an exterior of ugliness and lies. Try to imagine what the original world looked like before sin entered the world.

- a. How did the serpent turn Adam and Eve from God? (*Read: Genesis 3*)

- b. What was the consequence of Adam and Eve's rebellion?

- c. In Chapter One (Last Day of School), what are some ways Aaron, Benji & Hannah experience brokenness in their world?

- d. Are there things in your world that point to the brokenness of our world? (*Read: Romans 1: 21-25*)

- e. In His sermon on the mount, Jesus provides teaching on how we are to live as members of the kingdom of heaven in a broken world still governed as a kingdom of men (*Read: Matthew 5 – 8*)

- f. Consider Jesus' words on the kingdom of heaven (*Read: Matthew 4:17*)

- g. Reflection:

13. The Enemy

Many people cringe at the idea that there is an actual spiritual enemy of God, but Scripture is very clear; there is an actual Satan who despises God and everything God loves. But Jesus has already defeated Satan, so we live as victors.

Malby is an evil adversary who wants to destroy King Yasha and his kingdom. Aaron, Benji, and Hannah learn that he has a detailed plan to separate people from King Yasha using doubt, deception, selfishness and any other weakness he can find. Consider any similarities you see in your own world as the enemy seeks to separate you from God and the good, beautiful and true things God has put into your life.

a. What is the enemy's objective? (*Read: John 10:10; 1 Peter 5:8, 2 Corinthians 11:3, 1 John 3:8*)

b. How does the enemy treat the truth? (*Read: John 8:44; Acts 5:3*)

c. What's wrong with the Shadowlands characters who follow Malby (*Read: 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2*)

d. Who is Malby and why is he opposed to King Yasha?

e. In Chapter Fifteen (A Secret War), Malby describes his Road to Destruction plan. What is Malby's five-point Road to Destruction plan?

f. In Chapter Fifteen (A Secret War), Malby describes the two weapons he will use to defeat his enemy, King Yasha. What are the two weapons and how does he plan to use them?

g. Do you see any of Malby's tactics in the world today?

h. Reflection:

14. Battling the Enemy

There is a spiritual battle being waged for the souls of people. The enemy wishes to separate people from God and uses deception and temptation just as he did with Adam and Even in the garden. But God has given us weapons to stand strong against the enemy.

King Yasha gives an important mission to Aaron, Benji, and Hannah. They are to take on Malby and find a way to defeat him. However, King Yasha does not expect them to defeat Malby all by themselves. He will be there with them to help them defeat the enemy. Consider all that God makes available to you to defeat the enemy.

- a. How should we prepare for battle with the enemy? (*Read: Ephesians 6:11-18*)

- b. In Chapter Nineteen (The Battle Begins), Who do Aaron, Benji, and Hannah trust to guide them in battle?

- c. In Chapter Twenty (Prisoners in Enemy Territory), what does Fister want Aaron, Benji, and Hannah to do?

- d. In Chapter Twenty (Prisoners in Enemy Territory), what is their response? Why? (*Read: James 4:7*)

- e. What gives them strength? (*Read: Daniel 3*)

- f. In Chapter Twenty-Three (Christmas at the Ranch), do you see a similarity between the children Peter saved in Africa and the people in Shadowlands that Aaron, Benji, and Hannah saved?

- g. Do you recall a time you were called to step out and do something courageous to stand for God? (*Read: 1 Peter 2:9*)

- h. Reflection:

15. Our King's Victory

Jesus has already defeated Satan, so we can live as victors with confidence, courage and peace of mind. As mentioned earlier, we live in an “already, not yet” time. Jesus has already defeated Satan through His death on the cross and resurrection. However, we still live in a fallen world where Satan continues to roam around like a lion.

Through our faith in Jesus, He holds onto us and will not let go. Even if the world gets darker and more chaotic, you can rest in the fact that God has secured a place for you eternally through your faith in Jesus, and nothing can overcome that victory. It is yours forever.

King Yasha defeats Malby and comes back to life as the kingdom of Himmel is restored and the blindness of Midnight Madness is washed away by King Yasha's cleansing water. Consider all that God has done to secure your victory over the enemy. How does this change the way you live?

- a. How has Jesus rescued us? (*Read: Colossians 1:13*)

- b. What price did Jesus pay to save us? (*Read: Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 27 and 28; Mark 15 and 16; Luke 23 and 24, John 19, 20, and 21*)

- c. How do we share in Christ's victory? (*Read: 1 John 4:4; John 16:33*)

- d. Compare the actions taken by King Yasha in Chapter Twenty-One (Attack Against the King), and Jesus in the gospel accounts.

- e. In Chapter Twenty-Two (Kingdom Restored), what impact does the water have? On the ravens? The people? Shadowlands?

- f. How does Jesus transform a dark world? (*Read: John 8:12*)

- g. In Chapter Twenty-Two (Kingdom Restored), what was King Yasha seeking from Aaron?

- h. Are there times you have a hard time trusting God?

- i. Meditate on, then celebrate that you are a victor because Jesus is the victor who conquered death and the world.

- j. Reflection:

16. My Parting Words for You:

- a. The one true God who created you and the entire universe knows you, loves you, and sent His Son to give His life to save you. You are His treasure and nothing can separate you from His love.

- b. You were made in His image with unique gifts to live out your purpose to be the salt and light to a dark world to glorify Him.

- c. Your identity is in Christ, and nothing can change that. You have infinite value to God; you are His treasure. The world's counterfeit alternatives of identity are worthless.

- d. By putting your faith in Him, you are a member of His royal family, and a victor resting in His love and grace - so live boldly with confidence, courage and peace of mind.

If you do not know God this way, please reach out to me. It's the single most important decision of your eternal life. I would love to hear from you. Please email me go share your experience with this Bible Study and the Kingdom in the Redwoods. Bax@kevenbaxter.com.

Thank you for joining me on this adventure.

Sources and Additional Reading:

1. Bible. Verse citations included in body of study. Readers can select the translation they are familiar with.
2. Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine. Wayne Grudem. He received a BA from Harvard, and MDiv and DD from Westminster Theological Seminary, and a PhD from Cambridge.
3. Humility: True Greatness. C.J. Mahaney. He leads Sovereign Grace Ministries to establish and support local churches. Other books include The Cross Centered Life and Christ Our Mediator.
4. Knowing God. J.I. Packer. He is Professor of Theology at Regent College and author of many books including Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God.
5. The Pursuit of God: The Human Thirst for the Divine. A.W. Tozer (1897 – 1963). He was a pastor, writer and editor.
6. The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with The God Jesus Knows. James Bryan Smith. He earned his MDiv at Yale University and his DMin at Fuller Seminary. He's a theology professor at Friends University and Director of the Christian Spiritual Formation Institute. He's the author of several books including The Good and Beautiful Life.
7. Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts. Jerry Bridges (1929 – 2016). He was on staff with Navigators and author of several books including The Pursuit of Holiness, Transforming Grace, and The Practice of Goodness.