

THE ROYAL

PART 2: Foundations
Pastor Miles McPherson – May 9, 2010

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Rock Church Devotional Readings May 10 - 15
The Royal: Foundations

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Hermeneutic: The art of interpretation – The process of discovering what it meant then and what it means now.

Exegesis – Take truth/meaning out of scripture **Eisegesis** – Put meaning into scripture

1. The Bible is the most important book ever written.

God reveals Himself to us. God reveals how we can know and love Him and love each other.

Claimed to be the Word of God 2000 times.

2. The Bible is the most reliable book ever written.

The Bible is 66 books written over 1,500 years (1405 BC - AD 90) by 40 authors living on three continents (Africa, Asia, Middle East).

Old Testament: 39 books in Hebrew; completed 400 years before Jesus was born.

Old Testament Evidence: In 1947 and 1956 the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. There were 825 to 870 separate scrolls, fragments of every book of the Old Testament except for the book of Esther. They were 1,000 years older than any other Old Testament documents known to man.

New Testament: 27 books in Greek; written between AD 40-90 by eye witnesses.

New Testament Evidence: The New Testament has been verified by more than 31,000 manuscripts. That's more manuscripts, with greater accuracy and earlier dating than any other secular classic. Even if we did not have a single copy of the Bible, scholars could still reconstruct all but 11 verses of the entire New Testament from material written within 150 to 200 years from the time of Christ.

The Bible has many genres, or literary styles, each with a different truth claim.

3. The Bible is the most practical book ever written.

Wisdom, literature, songs, history, science, parenting, finances (how to make and enjoy money), relationships and love.

The story of a loving Father who gave His only son in order to have a relationship with sinners like you and me.

4. The Bible is the most life- transforming book ever written.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21 The Bible is a spiritual book.

Inspiration. "A supernatural influence exerted on the sacred writers by the Spirit of God, by virtue of which their writings are given Divine trustworthiness."

5. The goal of scripture is to make us holy like Christ so we can rule with Christ in the Father's Kingdom.

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood" 1 Peter 2:9-10

MONDAY – LAW ENFORCEMENT (Prophetic Literature)

God's Prophets were God's law enforcers commissioned by God to challenge Israel to obey God's law.

Read: Isaiah 40 What are some of God's challenges to His people?

Reflect: What is a specific challenge that could apply to your life?

Respond: Write out a response to the Lord as a journal entry regarding this area of your life.

TUESDAY – LAW ENFORCEMENT (Prophetic Literature)

Read: Malachi 1 How had God's people transgressed God's laws?

Reflect: What is a warning in this text that you could learn from?

Respond: Write down a specific goal regarding one of these warnings that you can carry with you today for a prayer reminder.

WEDNESDAY – TWIST & TURN (Kingdom of God/Parables)

Parables are short earthly stories designed to twist your thinking about the Kingdom of God and turn your actions to match that new thinking.

Read: Matthew 5 What are a few principles from Jesus' teaching that challenged the people of His time?

Reflect: What are some of the themes in this chapter that challenge your current situation?

Respond: Copy a portion of this chapter that you find most enriching and send it out to as many people as you can as an encouragement to their souls (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, blog, email, etc.).

THURSDAY – TWIST & TURN (Kingdom of God/Parables)

Read: John 14 What do you learn about God's Kingdom principles in this chapter?

Reflect: How does this teaching encourage your faith?

Respond: Send a verse from this chapter to someone who would benefit from your personal challenge (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, email, letter, etc.).

FRIDAY – LETTERS (Epistles)

Epistles are letters from apostles to groups and individuals of believers designed to teach Kingdom of God principles for everyday life.

Read: Romans 12 Given the principles Paul addresses, what are some of the issues that the church in Rome was dealing with?

Reflect: Spend some time over this chapter and write out a prayer to God regarding an issue that is current in your life.

Respond: Make a commitment today to do something for a person in your life who needs to be influenced for Jesus Christ. Invite them to the Rock Church for an upcoming Sunday.

SATURDAY – LETTERS (Epistles)

Read: Ephesians 4 List 5 principles of living Paul uses to challenge the church in Ephesus.

Reflect: What are 3 of the verses in this chapter that most nourish your soul in your present situation?

Respond: Write out one of the verses that speaks strongly to you and commit it to memory today.