

## **"BIBLE BODIES OF WATER"** by Larry R. Ping II

There are many bodies of water referenced in the Word of God. When is the last time you thought of these watery places?

**1) The Rivers Of Eden.** Moses wrote, "a river went out of Eden...and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads" (Gen. 2:10). The four heads are the "Pison," the "Gihon," the "Hiddekel," and the "Euphrates" (Gen. 2:11-14).

**2) The Mediterranean Sea.** This is the large sea situated on the west side of Israel and the north side of Egypt. It is referenced as the "Great Sea" (Num. 34:6-7) and "the sea of the Philistines" (Exo. 23:31). It was on this sea Paul suffered shipwreck (Acts 27:1-44).

**3) The Sea Of Galilee.** This northern Israel sea is also known as "the sea of Chinnereth" (Num. 34:11), "the lake of Gennesaret" (Lk. 5:1), and "the sea of Tiberias" (Jn. 6:1). It was near this sea Jesus often taught and worked miracles (Jn. 6:1-21).

**4) The Red Sea.** This large sea between Egypt and the Sinai peninsula is alternately known as "the Egyptian sea" (Isa. 11:15). It was this sea which first served as a barrier, but was then parted by the Lord so the Hebrews could cross on dry ground (Exo. 14:1-31).

**5) The Dead Sea.** So called because of its inability to support life-forms due to its high salt content. In fact, it is referred to as "the salt sea" (Gen. 14:3). This sea is nearly 1300 feet below sea-level.

**6) The Jordan River.** This very muddy, curvy river served as an eastern border of Israel. It was the site of the Lord's baptism (Mk. 1:9). It was the site of Naaman's healing (II Kgs. 5:1-14). John the Baptizer utilized this river often in his work (Matt. 3:5-6).

**FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST** ♦ Vincennes, Indiana  
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## **THE VINCENNES VOICE**

*"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)*

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FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

## **"SOWER LESSONS"** by Larry R. Ping II

The physician records Jesus' parable of the sower in Luke 8:5-8. Think about these simple lessons concerning this account.

**1) A Sower Went Out To Sow His Seed.** Such is chronicled in Luke 8:5. The seed must be planted in order for growth to occur. We must ask ourselves the same question posed by Haggai, "Is the seed yet in the barn" (Hag. 2:19)? We, too, must get the seed out of the barn and sow it to produce growth (I Cor. 3:6; Lk. 8:11; I Pet. 1:23).

**2) A Sower Sowed His Seed On All Soils.** In fact, he sowed it "by the way side," "upon a rock," "among thorns," and "on good ground" (Lk. 8:5-8). He did not pick and choose which ground upon which to plant. We must not pre-determine who we think will and will not respond to the Gospel. We are seed-spreaders, not heart-testers!

**3) The Seed Must Accompany A Good Heart To Produce.** Only the fourth ground produced fruit. "The fowls of the air devoured" the first planting. Though the second planting "sprung up," it "withered away" because it "lacked moisture." The seed planted third "sprang up," but with "thorns" which "choked" the seed. The "good ground" produced fruit "an hundredfold."

**4) Lessons For Us.** We must be busy planting and watering the seed (I Cor. 3:6). We must be careful not to have respect of persons when it comes to spreading the Gospel (Jam. 2:1-4). We must not grow weary when rejected (Gal. 6:9). Let us be busy "Sowing the Seed!"

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## **BIBLE READING QUESTIONS**

The Bible reading for Feb. 12-Feb. 18 spans Neh. 1:1-Neh. 7:38.  
Answer the following questions based upon your reading.

- 1) What did Nehemiah do upon hearing the bad news concerning Jerusalem (Neh. 1:4)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) “Then I told them of the hand of my \_\_\_\_\_ which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us \_\_\_\_\_ up and \_\_\_\_\_. So they strengthened their \_\_\_\_\_ for this good \_\_\_\_\_” (Neh. 2:18).
- 3) What did Nehemiah report about the nobles (Neh. 3:5)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) What did Sanballat think about the new work (Neh. 4:1)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) “Yet they sent unto me \_\_\_\_\_ times after this sort; and I answered them after the \_\_\_\_\_ manner” (Neh. 6:4).
- 6) In how many days was the wall finished (Neh. 6:15)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) “Now it came to pass, when the \_\_\_\_\_ was built, and I had set up the doors...That I gave my brother \_\_\_\_\_, and Hananiah the \_\_\_\_\_ of the palace, \_\_\_\_\_ over Jerusalem: for he was a \_\_\_\_\_ man, and \_\_\_\_\_ God above many” (Neh. 7:1-2).

## **READING SCHEDULE AND MEMORY VERSES FOR THE DAYS OF FEB. 12-FEB. 18, 2023.**

**February 12, 2023:** Neh. 1:1-Neh. 1:11

**February 13, 2023:** Neh. 2:1-Neh. 2:20

**February 14, 2023:** Neh. 3:1-Neh. 3:32

**February 15, 2023:** Neh. 4:1-Neh. 4:23

**February 16, 2023:** Neh. 5:1-Neh. 6:4

**February 17, 2023:** Neh. 6:5-Neh. 7:13

**February 18, 2023:** Neh. 7:14-Neh. 7:38

*“Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven...” (Ezra 7:23).*

*“Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die” (Eze. 18:4).*

### **FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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