

**Day One: 2 Kings 17:7-23**

1. Why were the Israelites exiled (7)? What exactly did this entail (7-12)? What warning did the Lord issue to them (13)? How did the people respond (14-17)? What did God then do (18)? Describe what the tribe of Judah was like during this time (18-19). In his anger, what did the Lord continue to do (20)? Outside of God's favor, what did Israel do (21)? With Jeroboam as king, what were things like for the people (21-23)?
2. The Israelites succumbed to pressures to conform. In verse 23, we read that it cost them dearly: God would no longer dwell among them. Reflect on the pressures you face to conform to negative characteristics of the world around you. Which ones are you able to resist? Which ones have you failed to resist? What are the consequences? Repent and ask the Lord for grace to realign your heart and your actions with his intentions for your life.

**Day Two: John 17:14-19**

1. What has Jesus given to his followers (14)? How has the world treated them (14)? Why (14)? What does Jesus pray for his followers (15)? What does he *not* pray for them (15)? What point does he reiterate (16)? What does he ask the Father to do (17)? What exactly is "truth" (17)? What is one way Christians follow in Jesus' footsteps (18)? Why does Jesus sanctify himself (19)? What do you think he means by "truly sanctified"?
2. Meditate on verses 15 and 17. Which words or phrases jump out at you? How do you think the Lord wants you to respond to these words? Thinking more about verse 15, in this world, from what do you need protection? Think beyond physical threats: how does the devil want to erode those things in your life that mark you as a Christian? Pray against these schemes.

**Day Three: John 18:28-40**

1. Set the scene of this text (28). What did Pilate ask the Jewish leaders (29)? What was their answer (30)? What else did they talk about (31)? What was significant about this conversation (32)? Summarize the exchange Pilate then had with Jesus (33-37). What was his concluding statement to Jesus (38)? When Pilate spoke again to the Jewish leaders, what did he say (38-39)? How did they respond (40)?
2. Re-read verse 36. When Jesus says his "kingdom is not of this world," how do you feel? What are some ways you can remain loyal to God's invisible kingdom as you face the tangible trials of this world? Make a plan this week to try one of these ideas. Now, focus on Pilate's retort in verse 38. He was extremely uncomfortable with proclaiming a moral absolute. Are you? Ask God for boldness to use moral language whenever it's needed.

**Day Four: 1 Peter 4:12-19**

1. How does Peter begin this section of his letter (12)? What should not surprise us (12)? Instead, how should we respond to suffering (13)? Why (13)? Who is blessed (14)? Why (14)? What kind of suffering should we avoid (15)? Meanwhile, how should we respond when suffering "as a Christian" (16)? Where does judgment begin (17)? What rhetorical questions does Peter ask (17-18)? How does he conclude these remarks on suffering (19)?
2. Why do you think many people struggle to find meaning in suffering? What about you: do you actively avoid all suffering or do you see it as a chance to ultimately bring more meaning to your life? Or are you somewhere in between? Ask God for grace to rejoice and to sense your blessedness whenever you suffer as a believer. Finally, pray God's presence and power would sustain Christian brothers and sisters who are presently suffering.

**Day Five: Revelation 12**

1. Where did John see this vision (1)? Describe both the woman and the dragon (1-4). What did the dragon plan to do (4)? What happened instead (5-6)? What occurred next (7-9)? Summarize what the "voice in heaven" said (10-12). What did the dragon do next (13)? How was the woman prepared to respond (14)? Describe their ensuing battle (15-17).
2. Which words or verses from this text move you the most? Why? Now, juxtapose this vision with Daniel 1:1-2. In this instance Daniel recounts secular history while Revelation unveils a sacred conflict happening behind the scenes. How does an understanding of what's occurring in the spiritual realm help you to understand events in the secular world? How might God want you to deepen your knowledge in this area?