

**Color Blind?**

*READ through the Bible passage. WRITE your thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life experience. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.*

**Monday, 6/30/08 – Read Revelation 7:9-17**

My Observations \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: First off, as you read today's passage, just let the majesty of the imagery thrill your heart. Here is the fullness of God's glory shining forth -- with all God's people gathered round. ... Now notice who is there among God's people: "all tribes and peoples and languages"! ... This is where God is leading us -- all of us. God is bringing all of us humans together. ... What does this say about how we ought to be treating people now?

**Tuesday, 7/1/08 – Read Psalm 47:5-9**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: We take it for granted that there is only one God and that this one God cares for all people regardless of nationality or ethnic origin or race or language. We take it for granted, but it took the Hebrews a very long time to come to this realization. Today's reading celebrates this understanding. Notice especially verse 9: where the princes of the peoples (plural!) are treated as the Hebrews themselves, "the people of the God of Abraham." ... Are there some peoples that you still have to remind yourself that God is their God too?

**Wednesday, 7/2/08 – Read Psalm 67:1-7**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Today's reading is another psalm which announces God's global reach, God's tender care for all the people. ... Notice verse 4: "Let the nations be glad and sing for joy ..." Here's the question: do we live our faith in such a way that all the nations sing for joy? ... If not, what do you think we need to do differently or better?

**Thursday, 7/3/08 – Read Matthew 3:4-17**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: All of us have trouble remembering (and living!) God's global reach. The religious authorities of Jesus' day had that trouble too. They believed that their racial ancestry gave them a special privilege and a special access to God. John the Baptist, in his typically brutal style, says that God is able to raise up children of Abraham from the rocks that lie about on the ground. ... Are there times when you want (or think you should have) a special privilege?

**Friday, 7/4/08 – Read Ezra 1:1-11**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: In 587 B.C.E. Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians and the leaders and upper classes of the Jews were taken into captivity and exile in Babylon. It was only after the Babylonians were conquered by the Persians under King Cyrus that the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem. The Jews saw the hand of God acting through Cyrus, even though he was not racially or religiously Jewish. ... When have you seen God acting through another nation or through the leaders of other nations or other nationalities?

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The New Humanity #7  
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**Saturday, 7/5/08 – Read Isaiah 44:28 -- 45:3**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: The Jewish prophets went even further. Cyrus was not just used by God; he is referred to in terms that suggest a special relationship to God -- God's "shepherd"; the Lord's "anointed"; God calls him by name. ... Many people think of Gandhi, even though he was not Jewish or Christian, as one who embodied and lived the values and the purpose of God. Can you think of others? Have you ever known someone from a different culture, race or religion who lived the will of God? What was that like for you?

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**Sunday, 7/6/08 – Read Revelation 21:5-7, 22-26**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: We return again to the place we started on Monday, the Bible's vision of God's final goal for humankind -- a new city which is lit only by the brilliance of God's presence. And into this city people will bring the glory and honor of (all) the nations. ... God offers us this vision of God's future to show us how we are to live with one another on this planet in the meantime, until God's new city comes to pass. If God is preparing a city where all the nations will live together, shouldn't we be preparing the way for that city now in our relationships with one another, with other races, with other nations? ... What's one thing you can do to get ready for the beauty and brilliance of God's new city?

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**What do I want to remember out of today's message?**

**What action do I intend to take as a result of today's message?**