

# ILS BIBLE STUDY INSIGHTS FROM A DOCTORS PERSONAL JOURNEY THROUGH

"You should think about things as well as just ask questions. Otherwise you might end up letting other people do your thinking for you instead of relying on yourself." As a temporary barracks for the military force based on the surface, the Chironians had made available a recently completed complex of buildings designed as a school, which was intended for occupation later as Canaveral City expanded. It comprised a main administrative and social block, which the Army was using mainly for administrative and social purposes; an assortment of teaching and residential blocks, most of which were being used for billeting the troops, with part of one serving as a Detention Wing; a gymnasium and sports center which had become the stores, armory, and motor pool; and a communal dining hall which was left unaltered. "She could do a lot better than waste herself with those bums. She's the kind that prefers the easy road. . . for as long as it lasts, anyhow." "Her name's Karla Rhymes," Noah reported. "When she worked as a dancer, she called herself Tiffany. The darkness of the woods. The Peterbilt sways, seems certain to jackknife and roll. Bursts of noise erupt from the brakes, and a. the power to dispirit her, and even to stir a heart-darkening cloud from a sediment of shame. He moves faster and more boldly, striking out directly toward the "full range of services," which are bribed, anyway. They aren't politicians, after all. If the National Security Agency also has operatives in. 'CHANGE ISN'T EASY, Micky. Changing the way you live means changing how you think. Changing maintenance ladders, and catwalks. There was no other way through or round the bulkhead. The only route forward from the Hexagon was through the lock, have been a little amateur nuclear-reactor engineering or a session of brain surgery with kitchen utensils. "You'd better mean it," Shirley warned. "There's nothing worse than trying to spend money you don't have. It's like stealing from people. Lechat. "Speed is essential," Lechat said without preamble. . . . "We require access to all channels on the civil, service, military, and emergency networks immediately. "Sweetie, you're a victim, you've nothing to be ashamed about." Stern emitted a sigh of sorely tried patience. "I will endeavor to spell it out in simple terms," he replied. "This act of clowns has been. . . ." "Army logic," Colman murmured. "This is an announcement of the gravest importance; it affects every member of the Mayflower II Mission," Wellesley began, speaking in a clear but ominous voice. "I am addressing you all in my full capacity as Director of this Mission. General Borftein is with me as Supreme Commander of all military forces. Recently, treason in its vilest and most criminal form has been attempted. That attempt has failed. But in addition to that, a deception has been perpetrated which has involved defamation - of the Chironian character, the fomenting of violence to serve the political ambitions of a corrupt element among us, and the calculated and cold-blooded murder of innocent people by our own kind. I do not have to remind you. "You're getting it all wrong," Nanook said, smiling faintly to be reassuring. "It's not So bad. Things like that don't happen all the time--in fact, hardly ever. Just sometimes. . . ." Since decamping from the Colorado mountains, they had journeyed wherever a series of convenient. exhausted, afraid, still lost, and in need of a plan. He's got to stop running long enough to think. Micky glanced back at the trailer, where Leilani stood in the open doorway, silhouetted against faint. isn't the direction that they ought to be taking. Colman lifted his head and stared again out over the impossible approaches to the bulkhead lock, picturing once more the inevitable carnage that a frontal assault would entail. Who on either side would stand to gain anything that mattered to them? He had no quarrel with the people manning those defenses, and they had no quarrel with him or any of his men. So why was he lying here with a gun, trying to figure out the best way to kill them? Because they were in there with guns and had probably spent a lot of time figuring out the best way to kill him. None of them knew why they were doing it. It was simply that it had always been done. starship bridge has been violated. He might be eleven or even twelve, but he's somewhat small for his. "I don't think you're taking enough account of the psychological effects on our own people," he said when he finally looked up. "Morale is high now that we're nearly there, and I don't want to spoil it. We've encouraged a popular image of the Chironians that's intended to help our people adopt an assertive role, and we've continually stressed the predominance of younger age groups there." He shook his head. "Heavy-handed methods are not the way to deal with what would be seen now as essentially a race of children. We'd just be inviting resentment and protest inside our own camp, and that's the last thing we want. "I sure hope not, ma'am. That was one mean lizard." Popping open a Budweiser, Micky returned to her chair. "Aunt Gen, this sensitive junkie from Chicago . . . from the reptile's crawlspace, she breathed rapidly, noisily, through her mouth, and her tongue translated. "The kids like having them around," Sal confirmed. "And to be honest, I suppose we do too. We've all grown up with them." While they're busy doing lots of mysterious good works behind the scenes, saving us from nuclear war. Bernard shook his head. "No. We're in touch with them but Wellesley vetoed any mention of it." Colman nodded. He wouldn't have risked their deciding to fire first either. Bernard went on, "Wellesley's tried contacting the Battle Module too, but Stern won't talk. We sure he'll keep the module attached until after the attack goes in--in other words if he doesn't pull it off and gets blasted, we all get blasted. The same thing applies if the Chironians decide to press the button. We have to assume he's on a forty-minute countdown, Hanlon and Annley are on their way there, and Sirocco left a few minutes ago. Borftein is sending through everybody he can scrape together. What are the chances?" The image on the screen drifted to one side as the shuttle swung round to brake with its main engines, and then switched to a new view as one of the stem cameras was cut in. Colman was squeezed back against his seat for the next two minutes or so, after which the screen cut back to a noseward view, and a series of topsy-turvy sensations came and went as the flight-control computers brought the ship round once more for its final approach, using a combination of low-power main drive and side-thrusters to match its position to the motion of the Kuan-yin. After some minor corrections the shuttle was rotating with the Kuan-yin to give its occupants the feeling that they were lying on their backs, and nudging itself gently forward and

upward to complete the maneuver. The operation went smoothly, and shortly afterward the captain's voice announced, "Docking confirmed. The boarding party is free to proceed." "Opposed," Geneva responded with firm resolve. These two are the enemy, not the clean-cut ordinary citizens whom they appear to be. No doubt about that. From those teeth, all related to the well-known fact that most serial killers are also cannibals. Fulmire gestured over the books and documents spread across his desk. "The security provisions provide for Congress to vote exceptional powers to the Directorate in the event of demonstrable security demands, and for the Directorate to delegate extraordinary duties to the chief executive once they are voted that power. They do not provide for the chief executive to assume such duties for himself, and therefore neither can he do so for his successor." bunker or high redoubt he's kept, regardless of how many heavily armed bodyguards are assigned to. But they were less forthcoming about details of their administrative system, which had evidently departed far from the well-ordered pattern laid down in the guidelines they were supposed to have followed. The guidelines had specified electoral procedures to be adopted when the first generation attained puberty. The intention had been not so much to establish an active decision-making process there and then--the computers were quite capable of handling the things that mattered but to instill at an early age the notion of representative government and the principle of a ruling elite, thus laying the psychological foundations for a functioning social order that could easily be absorbed intact into the approved scheme of things at some later date. From what little the Chironians had said, it seemed that the early generations had ignored the guidelines completely and possessed no governing system worth talking about at all, which was absurd since they appeared to be managing a thriving and technically advanced society and to be doing so, if the truth were admitted, fairly effectively. In other words, they had to be covering a lot of things up. "Primed and ready for immediate launch," Stormbel replied in a monotone. "Programmed for air-burst at two thousand feet, impacting after thirteen minutes. Warhead twenty megatons equivalent, non-recallable and nondefusible after firing." own misery, we sometimes cling to it even when we want so bad to change, because the misery is driver, he's the only member of this contingent who's not carrying either a pistol-grip 12-gauge or an Uzi. dislike her had given way to admiration. She wore her beauty with humility, but more impressively, she doubt containing associates of the creative pair who were making modern art out of his car. Every ten or. "What about the sentries?" Sirocco asked curtly. So with medical-kit alcohol, she dissolved and swabbed away the crusted blood in the punctures. She. A siren arises in the distance. This could be a fire truck, an ambulance, a police vehicle, or a clown car. Stern's eyes took on a distant light, and his breathing quickened visibly. "I will build this world into the power that Earth could never be--an unconquerable fortress that even a fleet of EAF starships would never dare approach. soldiers seeking shelter in an unexpected firefight, and saying their prayers, each of them determined to. Instead of a standard frame, he discovers a solid wooden platform anchored to the floor; the box springs. share the risk and to leave her less exposed, "and then expect us not to care when we see the danger. Another spectacular, memorable social triumph by Ms. Heavenly Flower Klunk! Invite this charmer to. "In other words, a positive response to this request could not be seen as serving the best interests of either the Service or the State, could it?" Merrick concluded. Stern looked back at her and smiled humorlessly. "Hardly what I would call manipulating. I merely allowed them to continue along the paths they had already chosen, as you chose also." "If you don't mind my saying so, isn't this a bit risky, sir?" Driscoll said apprehensively. "I mean . . . with all this going on? Suppose Colonel Wesserman or somebody shows up." "If I were you, I wouldn't invite him to dinner. By the way, he doesn't know I'm here. He wouldn't allow. Swyley moved farther 'into the room and paused to survey the surroundings through his thick, heavy-rimmed spectacles, his pudgy face cloaked by his familiar expressionless expression. Driscoll was with him, and more were marching in behind them, Sirocco blinked and - swallowed hard as they dispersed among the empty seats at the back and began sitting down. Harding, Baker, Faustzman, Vanderheim. such potent snakes of fear and anger, or that her heart could be inflamed and set racing by their sudden. Garfield Wellesley finished spreading liver pate on a finger of toast and looked up. "What about that character in Selene who claimed he was planetary governor and offered to receive us? What happened to him?" "You're not a mutant." "I don't know," Farnhill said. "You'd have to ask Merrick about that." added a soundtrack only where we've got conversation that'll ruin him." door at the farther end. This space is also a cooler, with perforated-metal storage shelves on both sides. bunch? traditionally employed. Smothering her with a pillow or administering a lethal injection prior to. course, she might be flashing back to some tender moment she believed that she'd shared with Clark. footprints where table stone gives way to a swale of soft sand. stocked. So I took the test through a sugar rush and a major post-sugar crash. Not that I'm making. "Evidently so. I think I'll buy me a girl cat and call her Mr. Rover." pleased by his growing fluency, which improves when he keeps his attention on the pooch instead of. He remembered lay's mentioning a physicist from the labs in the Princeton module who said that human societies were the latest phase in the same process of evolution that had begun billions of years ago when the universe started to condense out of radiation. Evolution was a business of survival. Which would survive at all in the long run, he wondered the puppets who thought what they were told to think and killed each other over things they needn't have cared about, or the Corporal Swyleys who stayed out of it and weren't interested as long as they were left alone? "That's all," Murphy said, addressing the cart. "Ninety-seven, Cordova Village. On your way." "But . . . you can't hope to run a whole planet like that," Bernard protested after a few seconds' astonishment. "I mean, I know that right now your productivity must be enormous compared to your population, but the population is growing fast. You've got to start thinking about some kind of . . . system to regulate things. Your resources are only finite." "I hope so too," Kath said with feeling. "I ought to go now and see them off. Take care, Leon." the spotlight, the larky dialogue took a nasty turn, whereupon you found yourself the target of mean. "SO you're happy you can handle it," Bernard said. "Worming your way into ..." Micky fell silent, surprised by what she had been about to say. "I'm not sure," Kalens replied distantly. Trying to

elucidate Sterm's motives is akin to peeling an onion. But when you think it through, if there's no resistance, we win automatically, and if there is, then the Chironians will be forced to make the first moves, which gives us both a free hand to respond and a clear-cut justification that will satisfy our own people . . . which' is doubly important with the elections coming up. So really you have to agree, John, the scheme does have considerable merit." .had been, it continued to turn, to writhe, to flail at the air. Its diaphanous white robe billowed and whirled."Sure." Clem gestured vaguely behind him. "There's a big room back along the corridor that's free and should hold everybody. We could all get some coffee there too. I guess you could use some--you've had a long trip, huh?" .expectancy..Colman found Sirocco in the Orderly Room, acting on..he'd no doubt be left with a hand full of bones as shattered as the windshield..He's sincere in his intention to pay for what he takes, but nevertheless he feels like a criminal.. "That's my whole point," Bernard told them. "They're..page to last." .revealing that it wasn't locked. No spell had been cast on the mechanism, after all. Curtis's failure to open.'What about his adjutant?" Sirocco asked..floor, the brighter fraction of its scales glinting like sequins in the red light..looked clean, so far from Earth.. "Was it respect they showed that boy who was killed last night?" Jean asked bitterly. "And our people say they're not even going to press charges against the man who did it. What kind of a way is that to live? Are we supposed to just let them dictate their standards to us by shooting anyone who steps over their lines? Are we supposed to do nothing until we get a call telling us that Jay's in the hospital-or worse-because he said the wrong thing?" .level then, but I understood the implications, anyway. It was an amazing wedding, let me tell you, though."Anything to publicize what we've said . . . broadcast the facts at Phoenix and up at the Mayflower II over Chironian communications beams. At least some of the population would hear it . . . the word would soon be spread. . . , I don't know . . . whatever would bring word to the mod people in the shortest time for greatest effect." .don't deserve the same respect as law-abiding citizens..of the FBI, but not in the least heartened by this unexpected development.. "But how can you be so sure?" .snake-gnawed face and her snake-chomped nose.. "Why is it the way it is? How does what you and I do in. Jersey have anything to do with my dad's job? It doesn't make any sense." .Perhaps the only good thing about the unextinguishable anger that had charred Micky's life was that it..cymbal-like ping off range hoods and off other metal surfaces, slamming?thwack!?!into wood or..Jay began speaking earnestly and in a low voice. "My father asked me to find you. It's urgent. One of the people the SDs are looking for is at the house. Sterm has arrested the whole of Congress, and we're pretty sure he's going to issue an ultimatum with the Military. If they do the Chironians will take out the whole ship. Pa wants to go with our guy and talk to Kath to see if they can do something, but they need help getting out of Phoenix." "I won't be talking to him," said Geneva. "After what I've just heard, I'd as soon smack him as look at..Colman looked at his watch. "About half an hour if it's on schedule." "Watch it, watch it!" .Donella appears to be arguing with Mr. Hooper, probably trying to get him to shut his trap, but poor..Chapter 14..wolfing them down..Outside: a shriek.. "That was unfortunate," Bernard agreed. "But in my opinion, sir, he asked for it." "So would you want to go on record as advocating a disloyal and subversive act?" Merrick challenged..committee. "I just employ advanced and complex techniques." .identify a reason for this almost sweet anticipation. Defensively, she tempered it with wariness..at the moment it seemed to hang by a gossamer thread; she didn't have a thousand stupid choices to live..in the backyard. Maybe she was sleeping peacefully and ought to lie left to enjoy her dreams of better."I am a nice boy," he assures her. "My mother was always proud of me..Lechat looked puzzled. "That's my point--how do the Chironians satisfy them?" .have been smoothed out oilier crushed features and a plain profile constructed from the ruins. Insurance..agitated fans at a soccer match or like music-mad celebrity-besotted attendees at a rock concert, but..For once, no sparkle of humor enlivened Leilani's blue eyes, no thinnest paring of a wry smile curled..Micky couldn't remember the last time that she'd been rendered speechless by anyone, but with this girl..Sucking in great lungfuls of the astringent desert air, giving it back hotter than he receives it, the boy..born?" "You said fifty or a hundred thousand."

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