

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of September 17, 2017

**THEME: "The Nation Israel"
WALL OF PARTITION**

Sunday Read Ephesians 2:12-22

"For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us." We are all familiar with walls historically and currently: walls erected for the most part for political and protective reasons. The wall of China stands out as does the Berlin Wall built by the Communists to keep people from leaving as opposed to protect from people coming in. In our own nation, there is a great deal of talk about a wall on the southern border to prevent illegal immigration and hopefully reduce drug trafficking. These are physical barriers. The Bible speaks of a spiritual wall that existed during the days of the Old Covenant, a wall of separation between Jews and Gentiles. This wall of separation was removed with the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Jewish Messiah had come to be the Savior of all the world: Jews and Gentiles alike. God had told Abraham that it would be through him that all nations of the world would be blessed! The angel had announced to the shepherds that the *"good tidings of great joy"* was for all people. Praise God that the Church being built by the Lord Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, although originally comprised of Jews, was made available to the Gentiles with the conversion of Cornelius detailed in Acts 10. The door was opened, and now we are all one in Christ. We will some day in the future together celebrate His coronation on that great day!

A NEW NATION

Monday Read Genesis 12:1-3

"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great: and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." This passage records God's call to Abraham, a man living in the country we now know as Iraq. He would become the human founder of the nation of Israel through which God would send His Son to become the Lamb of God to fulfill the law of God on behalf of sinful humanity. God had entered into a covenant with Adam and Eve back in the Garden of Eden that the *"seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent."* It would seem as though this is a prophetic truth partially fulfilled with the virgin birth of Christ in Bethlehem who then conquered death with a glorious resurrection after His crucifixion. It will be totally fulfilled with the eternal incarceration of the devil in the lake of fire as Jesus Himself stated in Matthew 25:41 with these words: *"Depart from me ye workers of iniquity to the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels."*

MOSAIC COVENANT

Tuesday Read Exodus 19:3-9

"Now therefore, if ye shall obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine." As time went on, the Israelites were forced to leave their homeland and flee to Israel in a miraculous provision by God for their survival due to a famine. They eventually fell into bondage as slaves to the Egyptians. It was while there that Moses was spared by Divine intervention when his mother defied the Pharaoh's decree that all Egyptian male babies should be put to death. The result was by Divine arrangement, Moses, an Israelite baby was reared in the home of the Pharaoh, but eventually had to live in exile to escape a certain death. While in exile, God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery into a Promised Land. On that journey, God entered into a covenant relationship with the Israelites under Moses' leadership. It was a conditional covenant of which the Ten Commandments were part. Basically, it could be summed up in what today's Bible reading states. God gave them His righteous law and promised them that they would be His treasured people on planet earth if they would keep the commandments. To fall short

would mean being cursed. That is exactly what happened because humans are imperfect sinners.

DAVIDIC COVENANT

Wednesday.....Read II Samuel 7:12-16

"And thine house and thine kingdom shall be established forever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever." To be like other nations, Israel set up a kingdom: first with King Saul followed by a man after God's own heart, the son of a shepherd: David. He had been used of God as a teenager in a mighty way to defeat Goliath, the Philistine giant. After escaping the attempts of a jealous King Saul to assassinate him, David became the King of Israel. David was not a perfect man, but we know from the psalms, many of them written by David, that he had a repentant heart. We worship a merciful God who is eager to forgive, something He can do because of the sacrificial death of His Son to pay the penalty of sin. David experienced that marvelous forgiveness, and became the beneficiary of a covenant with God, a covenant that guaranteed the continuance of his throne forever. It was not because the nation of Israel deserved it, but a guarantee in that God will keep His promise. The nation, after years in exile, was formed again in the 1940's, and now the stage is being set for the return of Jesus to be the eternal King. Jesus was born into the line of David, a line that will be perpetuated forever!

NEW COVENANT

Thursday Read Hebrews 8:5-10

"But now He hath obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also He is the mediator of a better covenant, which is established upon better promises." God finally ended up with a new covenant with Israel. He had through the prophet mentioned that He would ultimately come up with a new covenant after the Old one had been broken by the Israelites. We read of that plan of God to enter into a new covenant in Jeremiah 31:31: *"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of Egypt: which covenant they brake."* Because Israel, by their disobedience, had broken the covenant, it was necessary for God to enter into a new covenant, a better covenant. How was it better? It was better because it would be an unconditional covenant, dependent on God alone, and we know He will keep His Word. This covenant was sealed with the blood of Christ, the One who had come to fulfill all the law and the prophets. Because Jesus was sinless, the only human ever, His blood was a sufficient payment for the sins of the whole world. All who come to God on the merits of His blood are pardoned!

SCHOOLMASTER

FridayRead Galatians 3:21-25

"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster." We might ask why did God bother with an Old Covenant? Why did He not enter into the better covenant in the first place? Well, He had a clear purpose. By entering into the Old Covenant, he was able to prove that a New Covenant was essential. The Old Covenant of law proved that man was indeed sinful and could not live up to the righteousness of God. All would fall short! It proved to mankind that they needed a Savior, One who could live up to the law and then would be willing to pay the penalty for those who fell short. Jesus did all of that, just as He said He would in Matthew 5:17: *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill."* Did He ever: a sinless life and the death of a sinner! He kept the law and then paid the penalty for breaking the law! He did that for you and for me and for the whole world. God grants an eternal pardon to all who receive Jesus as personal Savior! Imagine, Jesus came from heaven to suffer what we should have! Oh, what a Savior!

FINAL DELIVERANCE

Saturday..... Read Revelation 19:11-16

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse: and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war...And the armies which followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron...and He hath a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." The Davidic Covenant will be fulfilled, and what a glorious time it will be! The nations of the world will consolidate against God's chosen nation for a climactic showdown. Israel will appear to be doomed. But at the very moment planned by God, Jesus

along with His army from heaven will appear on the scene to destroy the enemy. The King of kings will arrive to deliver Israel. He will set up His Kingdom to bring on a thousand years of peace! Hallelujah!