

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of April 29, 2018

### THEME: "Jesus: King of Kings" COMING KING

#### Sunday ..... Read Revelation 19:7-16

*"He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."* This scene described in this final prophetic book in the Bible gives us a glimpse into the future. It is the time of Christ's return to earth to accomplish what had been promised to King David and spoken of in detail by the prophet Daniel in the overview of world history that God revealed to him in the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The coming of the Messiah to take the throne of David in Jerusalem has been the hope of Israel ever since the centuries before Christ was born. It was the ambition of the Jewish people who had become the followers of Jesus in His first appearing on earth which turned out for Him to be the Lamb of God rather than the Lion of Judah. Many times Jesus talked about His coming again as have Spirit-inspired writers so many times in the prophecies in the Bible. We today who are the followers of Christ look forward to that glorious appearing as our blessed hope described in Titus 2:13: *"Looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."* Our Bible reading for today in Revelation 19 gives the details of that return of Christ to be the King of kings and Lord of lords. That coming will close out the time when the nations of the world under the rule of the antichrist will have invaded Israel to destroy them as so many leaders of Muslim countries are avowing in our day. At the time when it appears they will be successful in so doing, Christ and His armies descend from heaven to win the battle, opening the door for Jesus to be the King of kings and Lord of lords!

#### HOUSE OF JUDAH

#### Monday ..... Read Genesis 49:8-10

*"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah."* A sceptre is an emblem of royal authority, the term Jacob used on his death bed when in his last words he detailed the future of his sons and their heritage. When he got to Judah, he mentioned what amounts to as the royal line from which the Messiah and eternal King would come! The royal genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:1-6 begins with Abraham through Jacob, Judah, and David right up to Mary, the mother of Jesus. How amazing are the details of the Bible in conveying God's truth and what He has done and will do on His planet earth. Praise God for the light of Scriptures! How sad that so many choose to live in darkness by their ignoring or rejecting the Bible as eternal truth. It is interesting to look at a scene in the future as depicted in Revelation 5 where we read of the book of God's judgments and who alone would be worthy to open such a book. The answer is said this way in verses five through seven: *"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And He came and took the book out of the right hand on Him that sat upon the throne."* Yes, the Lion of Judah is the Lamb of God, our Beloved Savior and Lord!

#### PILATE'S QUESTION

#### Tuesday ..... Read Luke 23:1-4

*"And Pilate asked Him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And He answered him and said, Thou sayest it."* The Roman governor who presided over the trial of Jesus who had been taken into custody in the Garden of Gethsemane asked this interesting question of Jesus. One of the accusations against Jesus by the chief priests was that Jesus was disloyal to the Roman Caesar and planned to revolt against him. Pilate asked Jesus about that, and Jesus gave a clever answer without a direct answer leaving Pilate somewhat puzzled. It is interesting that Pilate found Jesus to be totally innocent of any wrongdoing, but he yielded to the crowd's demand for

a crucifixion. What is also interesting is that Pilate insisted that an inscription saying King of the Jews be placed on the cross despite the protests of the priests. Why that was so important to Pilate is an unanswered question! Did he really feel that way or was he simply showing contempt for the priests?

### **PERSONAL PRAYER**

**Wednesday ..... Read Matthew 6:9-10**

*"Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."* The fact that Jesus included a reference to God's Kingdom in His teaching us to pray would indicate that it is something that He wants to be on our minds every day. I say that because Jesus, as well as so many others used to pen God's Word, specifically mentions that we should pray daily: *"Give us this day..."* A responsibility of all Christians is that assignment of which we are reminded in II Corinthians 5:20: *"Now then we are ambassadors of Christ."* As citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, we are God's representatives in the places where we live and work. Others should get a feel for God's kingdom by what they see in us and hear from us. That should be our personal prayer, that we will walk worthy of such a high calling: *"Ambassadors for Christ!"* As Christians in the family of God with an eternal home in heaven and ambassadors in this temporary stay on earth, our major assignment is to be witnesses for our Savior!

### **PERSONAL TESTIMONY**

**Thursday ..... Read I Timothy 1:15-17**

*"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever."* Just as our daily prayer should call attention to our awareness of God's eternal kingdom for which we are ambassadors, so our personal testimonies should demonstrate that Jesus is the King of our lives. The Christian life should be a life lived for the glory of our King! We are His servants. We are here to do His will, to be the light of our world for the glory of God! Our speech should give obvious clues that we are part of God's kingdom. Our habits and mannerisms should be evidence that we are from a different set of norms than is the world in which we have this temporary residence. Others may mock us for being different from their norm, but that is actually a compliment in that we are in this world, but not of this world. We belong to God!

### **MILLENNIAL REIGN**

**Friday ..... Read Revelation 20:2-6**

*"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: in such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him for a thousand years."* Before the creation of the new heaven and new earth. Jesus will reign as King of the whole earth for one thousand years after returning along with His followers to win the battle of Armageddon. That return to earth will be seven years after His appearing in the air in what is called the first resurrection to take His Church home to heaven for a period of seven years. During that time, we will enjoy the Marriage Feast of the Lamb mentioned in Revelation 19:7 and the Bema Judgment seat spoken of in II Corinthians 5:10 and detailed in I Corinthians 3:12-15. During that seven year period the earth will be under the rule of the antichrist and suffering the righteous judgment of God's wrath. That explains why it is a rich blessing to be part of the first resurrection. The second death, of unbelievers, will be after the Millennial Reign to be sentenced to hell.

### **ETERNAL KINGDOM**

**Saturday ..... Read Matthew 6:10-13**

*"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever."* The model prayer taught by our Lord in response to the request of His disciples to teach them to pray concludes with this reference to the eternal kingdom of God, never ending! This is the final chapter in the history of mankind and in his relationship with His Creator, a never-ending chapter! God created man in His own image, which, among other things, means that man is an eternal being. Those who have responded to God's offer of the gift of eternal life by repenting of sin and receiving His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as personal Savior will be with Him forever in His

eternal kingdom. That kingdom will be free from Satanic intrusion because this adversary of God and of His kingdom of light will be forever incarcerated in the lake of fire along with all humans who preferred darkness to Jesus, the Light of the World. We are told of that final judgment of Satan in Revelation 20:10: *"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."* Jesus spoke of people joining with Satan forever in Matthew 25:41 with these words: *"Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."* How much better to be a follower of Christ and His eternal kingdom!