

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of July 1, 2018

THEME: "In God We Trust"

WAKE-UP CALL

Sunday Read Isaiah 51:1-8

"Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people. My righteousness is near." In this to His chosen nation of Israel, God mentions a few significant things worth our notice! First, He points out that He has provided a law for the good of nations, a law by which He will judge as the Supreme Judge of the world. He emphasizes that His law is a light, a light on what is good and evil. What was true for that nation is good for our nation, and worth our notice as we celebrate our founding. The nation of God now in this dispensation of His grace is not a nation with geographic borders, it is the nation described in I Peter 2:9: *"Ye are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."* Although God will again rule earth from the throne of David in Jerusalem when Jesus returns, He currently is working on His earth through the Church, the body of people who have received His Son, the Lord Jesus, as Savior. People of all nations, races, ethnic groups are one in Christ. Our founders held God's law, the Bible, in the highest regard and declared "In God We Trust" to be our national motto: God was honored by that! It appears we have betrayed that motto by some recent highly questionable court rulings. Maybe we would do well to reconsider where we are heading since God's law was abandoned. Ever since, we have been on a moral freefall with a secular humanism replacing the Judeo-Christian ethic promoted by adherence to God's law. Is it not time to wake up?

GOD'S PROMISE

Monday Read Genesis 12:1-3

"I will make of thee 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 him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Our God is a God of covenants, and He keeps His word. He made this covenant with Abraham that resulted in the nation of Israel, which has again become a focal point of world events. That promise to Abraham was pivotal in both the history of Israel and of the United States because it was the very Scripture that compelled President Truman in 1948 to go against his advisers and vote for the independence of Israel in the United Nations following the mass exodus of Jews back to their homeland culminating in the restoration of their country. What a tremendous fulfillment of Biblical prophecy that was! Some 600 years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Ezekiel, in the 37th chapter of his prophetic book, spoke of the return of Israel to become again a pivotal nation on the world scene. Our President wanted the United States to be the recipient of God's blessing. Again in 2017, our President, Donald Trump, announced the enforcement of Congressional action taken in the 1990's that the United States would move her embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, recognizing that city to be the capitol of Israel, just as God declared in His Holy Scriptures. Our nation has been mightily blessed of God because of her adherence to His Word and loyalty to His chosen nation.

REMEMBERING GOD'S BENEFITS

Tuesday Read Psalm 103:1-2

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." Our nation has mightily benefitted from God's goodness! Proof is that it was one of the last to be settled after the discovery of the new world by Columbus back in 1492. Over a century passed from his discovery to the actual settlement of this part of the Western Hemisphere. South and Central America got most of the attention of the early explorers, and North America came later. Well, a lot happened during that sixteenth century that seems to have God's fingerprints all over it. It was in the fifteenth century that the Protestant Reformation took place. That resulted in a real hunger for the truth of the Bible by a lot of people resulting in a return to true Catholicism, or a universal adherence to Biblical truth rather than the thinking of one individual considered to be infallible. The Catholic or universal church had become the Roman Catholic Church when a Roman Caesar declared the bishop in Rome to be the authority rather than a composite of bishops from many cities that had been Christianized. Then the printing press was invented by John Gutenberg, making possible the

mass printing of the Bible for many people to read. It was after this that God saw fit to have Christians settle in what became the United States of America.

A BLESSED NATION

WednesdayRead Psalm 33:11-14

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...the Lord looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men." God is watching things on His planet earth. Yes, this is God's earth. It is upheld by His physical laws enabling humans to do some wonderful things. The whole space program is possible because of God's law. If there were any variation to God's physical laws, those amazing accomplishments in the exploration of space would be impossible. Well, the spiritual laws of God are equally important, if not moreso, in that they govern the interactions of people. God established human governments to implement His righteousness for the protection of law abiding citizens from those who are inclined to do evil. That is the clear teaching of both Romans 13:1-3 and I Peter 2:13-14: *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God...For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same, for he is a minister of God to thee for good...a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil...Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme, or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by Him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well."* God expects rulers to enforce what He calls righteous and punish lawbreakers. When our nation used God's laws as the basis for governing, we were on the right track and we were the beneficiaries of God's blessing. Since we have abandoned God's law, there is increased corruption!

KNOWN TO THE NATION

Thursday Read Romans 16:24-27

"But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandments of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith." Our nation has no excuse for her ignorance of God's righteousness. The Bible gives light on how to live and how to enjoy His blessings of peace and law and order, love and good will. Our nation historically held the Bible in high esteem, it was the foundation of the education of our children. One of the first acts of Congress was to import Bibles so they would be readily available to every home and family. In the first amendment to the Constitution, the people in our nation were assured that the government would not interfere with their religious beliefs; that the government would allow the free exercise and applicaton of their faith in and commitment to God. Because there were denominational differences and preferences among the people, our rulers determined by this amendment that the government would not favor any one Christian denomination. All would be free to choose their personal beliefs. Never did our founders intend for government to interfere with the Christian's personal faith.

GOD'S WARNING

Friday Read Proverbs 3:1-10

"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil." Our founders knew well that our God is an all-wise God, and that is the reason the Bible was held in such high esteem. So respected did our forefathers consider the Bible that our first President said this about government: "It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible." In this day of political correctness, we see what God was talking about in the truth in today's Bible reading in Proverbs 3:7. Ignoring Biblical truth and substituting man's "wisdom," a nation is left with no moral authority, and evil creeps in. The prophet gave this solemn warning in Isaiah 5:20: *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness."* From God's perspective, abortion and homosexuality are example of darkness for light according to God's teaching in such places as Romans 1:24-28 and Proverbs 6:17. Our God and His people who love sinners do not love sin, the same as loving doctors and nurses hate disease. Our loving God is a holy God! Love is tolerant, but not of sin.

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Saturday Read Matthew 5:3-12

"Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." To be blessed by God requires loyalty to God and His law. To separate from God's righteousness is to lose God's blessings. Oh, that our leaders would recognize that! I wonder what God thinks when He hears leaders, during times of tragedy, call for prayer to the God whom so many ignore in their decision making. Our God says this about such prayers in Proverbs 28:9: *"He that turns away his ear from hearing His law, even His prayer is abomination."* To have God's blessing requires honoring God's law!