

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of July 8, 2018

THEME: "Laws of Nature's God" GOD'S PERFECT LAW

SundayRead Psalm 19:1-11

"The law of the Lord is perfect." The importance of the Bible cannot be overstated. It reveals God's thinking and gives light on the origin of things, the meaning of things, and the future of things. God has been good enough to provide it to all humanity so people do not have to live in darkness about life and its meaning. It is an instruction manual for living, as mentioned in II Timothy 3:16: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..."* To deny oneself the truth of Holy Scriptures is to settle for something less than what God intends for all humans. The Bible is the arbitrator to settle disagreements! It is the moral authority! It is the final determinant of right and wrong. When our nation's founders stated their cause for declaring independence, they made it clear that they were depending on the sovereignty of God! They set our nation apart from those relying on human wisdom alone; Americans have been the beneficiaries. Since the nation has placed the Bible on the back burner by infamous court decisions, we have been on a moral free fall. In times past, when there were the inevitable disagreements on an appropriate course of action, seeking God was the answer. Now it appears that resistance and even hate are the result of disagreements in our land. God's laws govern the universe; that is quite obvious in the physical realm and true science relies on the infallibility of God's physical laws. His moral and spiritual laws are equally important; and, in a sense, moreso in that they cover human behavior and interrelationships. God's enemy, the devil, tries hard to keep people in the dark as to real truth. Unfortunately, ignoring or rejecting God's law results in confusion and discord. We need God's Word!

GOD'S POWER OVER NATURE

MondayRead Hebrews 1:1-3

"God, who at sundry times and divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed all things, by whom also He made the worlds, who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by His power." Their belief in this profound truth is what led our founders to declare their independence. They mentioned that in the very first sentence as the reason for declaring their reasons for separating from England: "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and Nature's God entitle them..." That statement goes against the conclusion of modern day writers who claim that our founders were deists who, by definition, are people who believe in the existence of God but one who does not intervene in the affairs on earth. They felt that it was God who gave them the right to declare their independence. Obviously, they considered God to be very interested in what they were doing. So much for deism. God not only is interested in the development of nations on His earth, He is interested in every human being on the earth. The Bible teaches that God sent His Son Jesus to minister to all people. So God is very concerned about getting His truth out to all who will listen to Him. It is God whose physical laws govern nature and whose behavioral laws are given for humans to understand how to live on His earth.

GOD'S PHYSICAL LAWS

TuesdayRead Ecclesiastes 1:5-6

"The sun also arises, and the sun goes down; and hastens to his place where he arose. The wind goes toward the south, and turns about unto the north: it whirls about continually, and the wind returns according to his circuits." God's physical laws govern the universe. Our space program depends on the precise accuracy of God's law! Meteorologists depend on God's perfect laws, as does oceanography. Such famous early scientists included such people as Galileo, Isaac Newton, Francis Bacon, Blaise Pascal who all testified of their faith in Jesus Christ and the Bible as God's Holy Word. Their discoveries included the sun-centered solar system, the law of gravity, modern medical science, and laws of geometry. Matthew Maury, father of oceanography and well-known also in the field of meteorology, gives credit to Biblical truth as his inspiration for discovery. Of special intrigue was his reading in Psalm 8:8, which speaks of *"paths of the sea."* Wind currents

are in today's Bible reading. Although not a science book, the Bible is scientifically accurate. No scientific fact contradicts the Bible!, and when it does, it is what Paul referred to in I Timothy 6:20 as *"science falsely so called."*

GOD'S MORAL LAWS

WednesdayRead Exodus 20:12-17

"Honor thy father and mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house."

These are some of the Ten Commandments in God's holy law. It gives us the basics for human behavior and our interrelationships. The culture that adopts these are on the right track; the culture that ignores these are in trouble. Proof of that is our own nation. Our laws and our government used the law of God as their foundation, the basic premise. Our national motto, In God We Trust, emphasizes that. The Ten Commandments were posted all over our nation, from school houses to the Supreme Court building in Washington, D. C. In the last half century, our rulers, particularly in the justice department, have succumbed to the protestors who are "offended" by God's law, and ruling went against God and His law. The resulting problems are mounting! We are left with a plague of broken homes and confusion in government that has reduced itself to hate for any who disagree. It appears that our abandonment of God's moral laws has resulted in United States of America becoming the Divided People of America.

GOD'S SPIRITUAL LAW

Thursday Read Matthew 5:17-18

"Think not that I have come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill." In taking a close look at the events recorded in Genesis 2:17, where God told Adam of His behavioral law, His warning of a violation by eating of the forbidden fruit carried the penalty of death. That this meant both a physical and spiritual death; man's soul has both a body and a spirit. Adam's sin meant immediate spiritual death and eventually physical death. It is worthy of note that the tempter is the devil who appeared as a serpent. We know that to be Satan by the description in Revelation 12:9: *"That great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan."* His success in getting Adam and Eve to sin meant that they would be forced to share in the eternal condemnation of Satan described by Jesus in Matthew 25:41: *"everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels."* The sin of Adam and Eve meant that they could reproduce only sinners, meaning that all humans are born with a dead spirit doomed to spiritual blindness. The only way for spiritual life to be restored was by God providing a Savior. Jesus came to be that Savior and fulfilled God's law on behalf of humanity. God's law of forgiveness is in Leviticus 17:11: *"It is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."* God forgives all who make the decision to receive His Son as Savior.

SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

FridayRead II Corinthians 5:17-21

"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God through Him." This is the news that God would have all human beings to know: that Jesus paid the penalty of their sin. He took our place: that's right, he suffered for us so we don't have to go to hell, which is the penalty of sin. It is hard to imagine a loving father in our system of justice allowing his son to be put to death so known criminals would be set free, but that is exactly what God did so sinners could be set free from spiritual darkness and spiritual death, which is for eternity. Our souls are eternal, so eternal death means eternally dying. God did not want that for anyone, but He could not compromise His holiness or His holy law. The penalty had to be administered. So God allowed His Son to take our place as the payment for our sins with His death! Faith in Christ means eternal life is restored and a reconciled relationship with our Creator!

GOD'S DIVINE INTERVENTION

SaturdayRead Job 38:22-25

"Hast thou entered into the treasures of snow? Or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail? Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?" A careful study of world history will reveal the impact of this reading from the book of Job. Snow and rain truly has been a determining factor in so many of the battles in history that has shaped the course of nations. It was a storm that opened the door for the United Kingdom to replace Spain as the

world leader with her defeat of the Spanish Armada in their invasion of her homeland. It was snow that opened the door to the defeat of both Napoleon and Hitler in the invasions of Russia as part of their efforts to set up a worldwide autocracy. In His amazing prophecy in Daniel 2, we know that it will be Jesus who will become the world's next powerful ruler in His overthrow of the antichrist at the end of the tribulation.