

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of November 4, 2018

THEME: "Praise God for Israel"

GOD'S CALL

SundayRead Genesis 12:1-9

"Now the Lord had said unto Abram. Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee. And I will make of thee a great nation, and make thy name great: and thou shalt be a blessing. I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." In God's eternal scheme of things for His planet earth, Israel is the most important nation on earth. That is because it is the central focus of prophetic truth in the Scriptures about Jesus taking the throne of David as the King of kings and Lord of lords in the not too distant future. Israel is the nation into which Jesus was born of a Jewish woman to be the Savior of the world. To know the history of Israel helps to give a person a knowledge of God's plan of redemption, because it is the nation through which God chose to do His work, and will be the nation of His central focus after taking the Church out of earth and into heaven. Israel is the focal nation of God's covenants that impact the whole earth. Notice the mention of *"all families"* in the text. God had chosen to make it possible for all families to be blessed by His call to Abram many years ago. That ought to arouse our curiosity because all humans were born into a family, or at least what should have been a family if people would follow God's original plan for the human race! The history of Israel began with this call of God to Abram living in Ur or the present day Iraq. It took faith for Abram to respond favorably to the call of God because of all the unknowns, but he was willing to trust God and obey His call! That is a good example for all of us to follow.

GOD'S PROMISE

MondayRead Genesis 15:1-6

"And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but that which shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir." There is no question that Abram's faith would be tested! How would the line of Abram bless all families of the earth if he himself did not have any children in his family, and he was getting older and older! As we know, Abram and his wife took things in their own hands to have an offspring. But it was not according to God's plan, and it resulted in some serious problems: in their home, and in the history of the world that was to follow. That family strife has become a worldwide strife that continues today with the animosity of the offspring of this family rivalry resulting from the impatience of Abram and Sarah. But God did not renege on His promise. Now I don't think Abram and Sarai were deliberately opposing God by what they were doing, but rather they probably thought, by having a child, were accomplishing what God wanted to do in their lives, but they were showing impatience by what they were doing. How important for us to do the will of God but to do it in His way and according to His timing. God will keep His promises, but He will do it in His timing. His ways and His timing are perfect!

BONDAGE IN EGYPT

TuesdayRead Exodus 1:8-14

"The Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor; and they made their lives bitter with hard bondage." Anyone that thinks being a believer in God makes life a walk in the park are in for a big surprise; it is anything but that! Obedience to God and trying to do His will and honor Him makes a person a target of God's enemy and opens him up to criticism of the followers of Satan. The life of a faithful believer is the most rewarding of lives, but only because we are assured of victory by our faith in God. It is that faith in God that allows the believer to understand that God is the God of the impossible. Trials are challenges for God to overcome; the believers simply had to believe! Now some hard times do come about in the lives of believers because of disobedience to God, but that does not mean God gives up on His disobedient children. God will use the waywardness as a way to show His power and His love to draw them back into a life of complete

trust and faithfulness. So it was with the Israelites. Some very questionable acts of unkindness caused Jacob's family to end up in bondage; but God ended up making good out of bad after He had won back their trust.

THE PASSOVER

WednesdayRead Exodus 12:3-12

"And the blood shall be a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you...And this day shall be for you a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever." God was very aware of the suffering of His people in the land of Egypt, and when it was opportune, God took appropriate and even miraculous measures to bring them out of their bondage to lead them to the Promised Land that had been promised to Abraham years before. When He did, God gave to them and to us an important lesson about His forgiveness! After proving His deity to the Egyptian pharaoh through some plagues that failed to convince the pharaoh, God resorted to the most powerful weapon of all. He would bring death to convince the pharaoh of His power. He gave the children of Israel a way to escape death: the shedding of the blood of a spotless lamb. By placing the blood of the lamb on the doorposts and lintel of the house, the death angel would pass over that home. And so it was, and the pharaoh set them free. We now know that the blood of the Lamb of God is the means by which we are freed from the penalty of eternal death. In Old Testament days, there had to be a sacrificial lamb placed on the altar to have God's forgiveness. That constant need to offer blood as a sacrifice to God is no longer necessary because the blood of Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice, so those who have accepted Christ are free from the penalty of sin and on the way to the eternal Promised Land.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

ThursdayRead Deuteronomy 10:1-4

"And He wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the Lord spake unto you in the mount..." God gave Moses the law to be followed by the nation of Israel, much like our Constitution is the law of our land. It is worthy of mention that our founders used this law of God given to Moses as well as other Scriptures to form our Constitution that reflect Biblical truths. One example is a provision of God's law mentioned in five different books of the Bible in Deuteronomy 19:15: *"One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established."* That law was repeated in four more books of the Bible in Matthew, II Corinthians, I Timothy, and Hebrews. The sixth amendment reflects this very thinking, a provision in the Constitution that was ignored by some of our Senators in a recent confirmation hearing. These Ten Commandments are posted in our Supreme Court building in our nation's capitol. When our Supreme Court in 1963 made a decision to remove Bible reading from our public schools, they violated our nation's motto: "In God We Trust." Those commandments given to Moses, as well as the rest of Holy Scriptures, will be the basis for the final judgment at the throne of God.

DAVIDIC COVENANT

FridayRead II Samuel 7:12-16

"Thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever." Praise God that the new covenant that Jesus inaugurated has been extended to Gentiles; and the nation through which God is working in this dispensation is actually a spiritual nation made up of all believers in the true Church Universal. That new nation is mentioned in I Peter 2:9: *"Ye are a holy nation."* Jesus alluded to the new covenant when He instituted the Lord's Table as a church ordinance. That is mentioned in the gospel of Matthew. Those are the people who have entered into a personal relationship with Jesus by repenting of sin and opening their hearts and lives to Him to be their Lord. Most Jews rejected Jesus as their promised Messiah, but many did recognize that He is the One sent to deliver them, first from the bondage of sin, and eventually to become their King!

THE NEW COVENANT

Saturday Read Matthew 26:26-30

"And He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." God had promised Israel a new covenant through the prophet 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."* Jesus inaugurated that new covenant in this first of what we refer to as our Communion Service. That covenant would be sealed with His blood on the cross of Calvary, where He would satisfy the law of God on behalf of all sinners, all the world. On the merits of the blood of an innocent Lamb, God would pardon all those who repent of sins and open their hearts to the Lord Jesus. Oh, what a Savior!