

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of April 14, 2019

**THEME: "The Triumphal Entry"
ROYAL WELCOME**

Sunday Read Mark 11:1-10

"And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord: Blessed be the kingdom of David, that comes in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest" When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, some of His followers were hoping that this would be the coronation for the long awaited restoration of the Kingdom of Israel, that Jesus would take the throne of David! After all, that was the promise of God recorded in II Samuel 7:16: *"And thine house and thine kingdom shall be established forever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever."* Jesus, who in their way of thinking was the king to fulfill that prophecy, deserved a royal welcome, and so it would be! Now it would be different from what you might expect for a ruler of a nation because the many skeptics among the Jewish religious leaders did not think that Jesus was the promised Messiah of which they had read in the Old Testament. But no problem, after all Jesus had a humble beginning having been born in a stable and laid in a manger of straw while wrapped in swaddling clothes. So He would enter into Jerusalem on a donkey! But His humble faithful followers gave Him a welcome worthy of a king with eager anticipation of glory days ahead! They were not, however, in tune with God's calendar of events. Yes, Jesus is the King of the Jews; as a matter of fact the King of kings of all the world, but that is for another day! For now, He had more important things to accomplish. The Kingship would be for His next coming to earth! Before His being the Lion of Judah, Jesus had to become the Lamb of God. The sin problem had to be dealt with before the Kingdom of God could be established! God's kingdom will be a truly holy entity: sinless. Sinners had to be purified to satisfy God's holy law. In this first appearance on earth, Jesus had come to fulfill God's law with a sinless life as a human being, and then pay the penalty of sin with His shed blood to satisfy God's law for the forgiveness of sin. Yes, it would be the cross before the crown!

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

Monday Read Isaiah 53:1-7

"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities...he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter." Although His followers were rightfully eager for the kingdom as promised in the Old Testament scriptures, they failed to focus on all the events surrounding the life of the Messiah! That's right, God forewarned His people of the crucifixion of the Messiah that would predate the coronation of the Messiah. Even the religious leaders of the nation, those who had, or thought they had, a real grasp of Scriptural truth, missed this important teaching about the plans of God. Today's Bible reading in Isaiah 53 is one of those passages detailing the death of a Lamb of God. Another clear prophetic truth even directly making reference to the Messiah is in Daniel 9 where God gives an overview of the history of Israel from the time of their return to Jerusalem after the captivity of Babylon. In chapter 2 of Daniel, God gave an overview of the history of the world, much of which is now recorded in secular history books revealing that things have occurred just as God said they would. Regarding the crucifixion of the Messiah, the angel revealed that to Daniel with this truth in Daniel 9:26: *"And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off."* The crucifixion of Jesus did occur precisely 483 years after the Persian ruler gave the Jews permission to return to their homeland. It is vital not to use a "pick-and-choose" method for studying the Bible, but to consider the whole counsel of God. In speaking of reading and understanding the Bible, Jesus said this in John 16:13: *"When He is come, the Spirit will guide you into ALL truth."*

TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Tuesday Read Matthew 16:18-21

"From that time forth began Jesus to show His disciples how that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed, and be raised again." Not only did the people have the teaching of the death of the Messiah in the Old Testament, Jesus Himself spoke of His death on several occasions while teaching of the ways of God. In today's Bible reading in which Jesus spoke of the building of His church, He was actually speaking of a whole new age in the plans of God, something different from His chosen nation of Israel. The church would be a new part of God's plans for the Jewish people, but the church would include Gentiles as well. It would be a "holy nation" without geographical boundaries. It would be the age implied in the Daniel prophecy that stated there would be a gap of time between the crucifixion of the Messiah and the setting up of the kingdom. We are in that period of time which is the Church Age to be followed by a seven year

tribulation and then the eternal kingdom. Jesus clearly and repeatedly stated that He would die, but would rise from the dead on the third day in other places like Matthew 17:23: *"And they shall kill Him, and the third day He shall be raised again."*

BETRAYAL PREDICTED

Wednesday Read Matthew 26:21-25

"And as they did eat, He said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me." Well, the week went on, but Jesus did not go to the palace to take the throne as King. Instead, He did the normal routine. He went to the temple, the place of worship and then back to Bethany from where He had come. It was back to the temple in Jerusalem again to do some more preaching in parables, one of which talked about the killing of the husbandman's son as well giving some insight into the last days before the kingdom of God would begin. Since it was time for the Passover, His disciples asked where they should do the preparations, and Jesus sent them to a private residence. It was there in this time with His disciples that Jesus explained that one of twelve would betray Him, much to the surprise of all. Finally Judas asked if it were he, to which Jesus responded in the affirmative. After having been exposed, Judas left to proceed with his tractorist act, all that for thirty pieces of silver and his eventual suicide. One wonders how such a thing could happen, but we do know that God knows the hearts of all. Praise God for the faithful.

THE LORD'S TABLE

Thursday Read Matthew 26:26-28

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take eat: this is my body. 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." It was during this solemn observance of the Passover that Jesus chose to inaugurate the New Covenant that had been predicted by the prophet in Jeremiah 31:31: *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah."* This would be different from the old covenant in that the new one would rely totally on God's faithfulness. The purpose of the old covenant was that it proved that sinful humanity could not live up to the perfection demanded by God's law. It demonstrated that all people are indeed sinners, just as we read in Romans 3:23: *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* Man needs a Savior! And Jesus, and He alone, is that Savior of the world that the angel announced at His birth. That is the *"good tidings of great joy."* On this occasion, Jesus commanded that His people partake of the elements signifying his broken body and shed blood on a regular basis until He comes back again. We do this in remembrance of what Jesus did for us!

GETHSEMANE PRAYER

Friday Read Luke 22:40-42

"And when He was at the place, He said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down and prayed, saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine be done." Just before His betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion, Jesus had to take time to be alone with His Father in heaven for this most difficult time of His thirty plus years on earth as a human being. He did ask some disciples to go with Him into the garden, but He would go a little farther alone. I find it interesting that He led in the singing of a hymn on the way. Yes, music was important to our Savior and helped Him in this most difficult time. It was during this time alone with His Father that Jesus displayed his humanity and thought like we do when faced with difficulty, but it is also a real lesson for us. Notice His prayer. He knew He was now about to accomplish the basic reason He came to earth that He had mentioned in Matthew 5:17: *"I am come not to destroy the law and the prophets, but to fulfill."* He had lived a sinless life without one violation of God's law, but the law would not be totally fulfilled without His paying the penalty with His shed blood. His being the sacrificial Lamb would be the sufficient payment for sin that would allow His Father to grant a pardon to all repentant sinners. That is what would make Him the Savior of the world. His prayer was to do it another way if that were possible, but knowing it was not possible, Jesus yielded to the will of God!

THE CRUCIFIXION

Saturday Read Luke 23:33-45

"When they were come to the place called Calvary, they crucified Him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left." Jesus said many revealing things on the cross that

deserve our notice: those recorded in Scriptures reveal what a wonderful Savior He is. While being nailed to the cross, Jesus showed His compassion with this prayer for those who nailed him: *"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."* To the repentant criminal next to him, Jesus said this in response to the dying thief's expression of faith: *"Today thou shalt be with me in paradise."* He showed care for His mother with this order to John: *"Behold thy mother."* Having taken on the sins of all humanity, He said this, *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* But while breathing His last, He shouted in victory: *"It is finished!"* He did it, that for which He had come! Then, calmly, *"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit,"*