

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of June 2, 2019

**THEME: "Power of Music"
BATTLE SONG**

Sunday Read Isaiah 30:27-32

"You shall have a song as in the night when a holy festival is kept, and gladness of heart as when one goes with a flute, to come to the mountain of the Lord, to the Mighty One of Israel." How interesting that music was part of the battle plan in God giving Israel a victory over the Assyrians. The fact that God told them that they would have a *"song in the night"* was His way of assuring them that they would be victorious in the upcoming confrontation with their enemy. After revealing through the prophet Isaiah how He would deal with the enemy, God told them that they would be singing songs of victory! How would God defeat the enemy? He would use His voice, not necessarily the common means of conducting war, but God is God! The power of His voice would be sufficient! After God told His people that they would have a song of victory in the upcoming battle, He also mentioned in verse thirty two in today's Bible reading that there would be instruments of war: tambourines and harps. Now is that not interesting that God would use musical instruments instead of guns and tanks? God knew that the power of His voice would be sufficient. I think that God is telling us that there is power in music, that it is an important part of His plan in the battles we will be called on to fight and in the battle of the ages for the souls of men. Yes, the Israelites did have their holy festivals to celebrate the successes where God led them to victory with music as part of their victories, and we should do the same in our times of worship of our great God and Savior!

SONG OF VICTORY

Monday Read Exodus 15:1-6

"Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation: He is my God." The first thing that Moses and the Israelites did after victoriously crossing the Red Sea which had engulfed their enemy was to sing a song: a song of victory! It was a song of praise and worship of the Captain of their salvation. Yes, their victory was a result of their faith in God and in the courageous confidence of Moses, their leader. Think of their fear when they saw the approaching enemy Egyptian army closing in on them. How about the shock and the joy when they saw the sea divided to give them a path to flee the enemy! Then there were those frightening walls of water as they marched through the Red Sea that God had opened up for them to escape! Imagine their relief when they stepped on to dry ground on the other side. Think of the joy when they saw the waters come back to prevent the enemy from following them. They had witnessed the mighty working of God on their behalf! No wonder they felt like singing, and a song of victory they sang; and I am sure God appreciated their joyous act of devotion.

SONG OF COURAGE

Tuesday Read Matthew 26:26-30

"And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives." One of the most moving accounts in all of Scripture mentioning the singing of a song is this one that Jesus and His disciples sang after they had met to celebrate the Passover. Jesus used that as an opportunity to introduce the new covenant of which the prophet had spoken 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."* With that first gathering of what we now refer to as our Communion Service, Jesus set the stage for His crucifixion at which time He would fulfill the law of God on behalf of sinners by paying the penalty of sin with the shedding of His blood. The law of God for forgiveness of sin required the blood of a spotless Lamb. The virgin born Son of God had lived a sinless life and could be that perfect Lamb. Our Heavenly Father, a holy and righteous God, could issue a pardon to sinners on the merits of the blood of Jesus, the perfect Lamb. The only requirement for sinners to be justified would be to confess their sins and accept Jesus, the Lamb of God, to be their Savior. After that time of worship with His disciples, Jesus headed to the Garden of Gethsemane to speak with His Father with a song in His heart.

While praying, Jesus acknowledged that His crucifixion was the only way sinners could be forgiven, so He yielded to His Father's plan of salvation. Is it not telling that Jesus used a hymn as part of the preparation for this act of obedience to do God's will?

GLORIOUS VOICE

WednesdayRead Genesis 1:1-14

"And God said, Let there be light, and there was light...And God said, Let there be firmament...And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear...And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass...And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night." The prophet Isaiah had spoken of the voice of God that won a key battle for the Israelites over their enemy. That was the same glorious voice that brought the world into existence! God spoke and there was a sun, the moon, and the stars. God spoke and there were continents. God spoke and there was vegetation. If people were to ask about how this world came into existence, the answer is "God's voice." The Creator spoke and it happened! Now that is beyond the ability of the human mind to comprehend. We cannot picture how spoken words could accomplish that, but the words of God did just that! We can understand only by faith as is pointed out in Hebrews 11:3: *"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so the things which are seen were not made of things which appear."* The truth is that an understanding of the origin of things requires faith: either in God or man's feeble explanation. We know that Darwin, who has given a human explanation, was not around when it happened; so it requires a lot more faith to believe what he has to say than what God has revealed in His Word. To trust God and take Him at His Word gives us the truth!

STILL SMALL VOICE

ThursdayRead I Kings 19:8-13

"And after the earthquake a fire: but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?" This man of God was a real beneficiary of the voice of God in a personal way. That powerful voice of God can be a still, small voice when dealing with individuals to meet their personal needs. The voice that brought the world into existence is the voice that brings peace and assurance to an individual. In today's Church Age, all individuals who have received Jesus as personal Savior have God the Holy Spirit in their bodies, the truth of I Corinthians 6:19: *"What? Know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Ghost?"* That gives believers the opportunity to hear God with that "still small voice" inside us. As we pray and read God's Word, the Holy Spirit guides us in our thinking if we are sensitive to His presence. Now if Bible reading and prayer are lacking, we deny ourselves of one of life's greatest privilege: hearing God speak!

SMALL WEAPON

FridayRead I Samuel 17:37-40

"And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine." Our Almighty God does not have to use the powerful weapons commonly used in modern warfare; His voice is sufficient in helping His people win those important battles in life. Think of David going up against a formidable enemy with a sling shot and a couple of stones he got out of a creek. That is ridiculous from a human viewpoint. But he won! How could David possibly have defeated the mighty giant Goliath who had defied the whole nation of Israel? David hit the nail on the head when he said this: *"The battle is the Lord's."* It was not so much David up against Goliath as it was Goliath up against God. You know that God will win every time! I don't know if David's aim and release were perfect, but I do know that he had God to redirect the stone if it were not going to hit the target; and I do know that David did give God the glory for his win. No weapon is too small if controlled by Almighty God!

BATTLE SWORD

SaturdayRead Ephesians 6:10-18

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God." Human beings, ever since the creation of Adam and Eve, have been involved in spiritual warfare. The devil has tried to take people hostage to his deceptions and distortions rather than enjoy the blessings of God by

obedience to His Word. He manages to keep most of the world blinded to God's truth by various strategies, and those who have been set free by faith in Christ as Savior are subjected to His attacks to challenge their faith and loyalty to Christ. Fundamentally, to become part of God's army a person must confess sin and receive Jesus. That is the helmet of salvation placing a person in God's army. Our Bible reading points out the equipment necessary for fighting this spiritual war against the rulers of the darkness of this world. The sword of the Spirit is essential in winning the battles. That sword is God's Word, the Bible. The proper use of the sword requires a commitment to reading and memorizing God's truth and availing oneself to proper preaching and teaching of the Word. Jesus used the Scriptures to defeat the devil; should not we?