

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of August 26, 2018**

**THEME: "Praise and Worship"  
GOD'S PEOPLE**

**Sunday ..... Read I Peter 2:9-12**

*"Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a special people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."* Here in the New Testament we see that a new group of people who are a special treasure to God: the body of believers called the Church made up of both Jews and Gentiles. We are one in Christ! Praise God that He reached out to the Gentiles. Jesus, born into the Jewish race, was in the line of Abraham as referenced in the Gospel of Matthew and in the line of Adam as mentioned in the Gospel of Luke. He is the Savior of all people: Jews and Gentiles alike. The nation of Israel is a precious treasure to God; the Church is a special treasure to God. God has revealed to us the light of Scripture. He currently is working through the Church; after the Rapture taking the Church off planet earth, He will work solely through His chosen nation. Those who are trust the truth of the Bible are living in the light; those who reject the truth of God's Holy Word are living in darkness. Praise God for His marvelous light.

**PRAISING GOD**

**Monday ..... Read Psalm 47:1-9**

*"Shout to the Lord with triumphant praise! For the Lord most high is awesome."* A distinguishing feature of Christians is that they have hearts of joy. It is a joy that transcends circumstances. They recognize that God is sovereign, and that He is a God that will use even the most trying of times to serve His eternal purpose. This is why we can believe the truth of James 1:2-4: *"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall in diverse temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that you may become perfect and entire, lacking nothing."* Believers have the assurance that all the circumstances of their lives have an eternal purpose as we are told in Romans 8:28-29: *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son."* God did not promise that all things would be what we consider to be good things, but He did promise to use all things for our good. How could those things that we consider to be bad things be of any good? They are good in that they can be used of God to make us more and more Christlike, and that is what the Holy spirit is trying to do in each of us: *"mold us into the image of Christ."* Nothing could be better than that! The more Christlike anyone becomes, the more fulfilling their lives will be. If we look back, we may find that some of those tough times drew us closer and closer to God. Yes, the heart of the Christian is a heart of praise, not always for the circumstances, but always because we are children of God by our faith in Christ. We are citizens of the kingdom of God! We have an eternal home in heaven. We have a life abundant on earth. We are ambassadors for Christ! We live in the light of God's truth! We are the light in a dark world! We are indeed a privileged people! Glory to God in the highest!

**GLORY TO GOD**

**Tuesday ..... Read Luke 2:8-20**

*"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men."* The shepherds on the daily routine of their jobs had no idea that they were going to be the target of God's favor. The angels, always with an attitude of praise and worship of our wonderful God, approached them in the meadows outside of Bethlehem. When the shepherds got a taste of the work of God and what He was doing on planet earth, their hearts too were filled with praise to God for His wonderful works. At first, they were stricken with fear; that is until they found out that God's intervention into the affairs of men is one of good news, news of peace and good will toward men. The time will come when God will pour out His wrath upon this earth because of its rebellion against His holiness and His holy law; but, for now, His whole thing is to get out the good news of His love, His mercy, and His grace. The announcement to the shepherds was that a Savior was born, the Savior of all people, people then and people of all time. The shepherds acted upon what the angels shared and found out that it was true. They found the Savior and immediately they were compelled to share it

with others. They were praising God for all that they had seen and heard. Should not our attitudes be the same? God is now expecting us to do what He instructed the shepherds to do in their day: bring the good tidings of great joy to all people!

### **MAGNIFY THE LORD**

**Wednesday .....Read Psalm 35:22-28**

*"Let the Lord be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant."* David had an understanding of God and His wonderful works. The law of God, as stated in Leviticus 17:11 and Hebrews 9:22, is that *"it is the blood that makes an atonement for the soul...without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin."* Only the blood of Jesus cleanses from sin. Jesus came to be the perfect Lamb of God. Born of a virgin, Jesus lived a sinless life making it possible for God to grant sinners an eternal pardon on the basis of Jesus' willingness to die in our stead. It is the will of God, according to II Peter 3:9, *"that all should come to repentance."* In I Timothy 2:4:, we learn that our loving God *"would have all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."* We learn in Ezekiel 18:32, that *"God hath no pleasure in the death of the wicked."* God wants no one in the hell that was prepared for the devil. He gave us His Son. Let us, with thankful hearts, say with the psalmist: *"Let the Lord be magnified."* Magnifying our Lord should be our desire every day!

### **A LIVING FAITH**

**Thursday .....Read John 11:14-26**

*"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."* One of the biggest reasons why Christians have hearts of praise is because God has the power of resurrection. None of the gods of other religions can make this claim; at least not on the basis of having accomplished it. In a conversation I once had with a Hindu in which I asked him why he converted to Christianity, he said it was because Christians have a Savior who conquered death. The family and friends of Lazarus were in mourning over what they considered to be his untimely death. Jesus too was saddened; and then He used the occasion to exercise His Divine power. He raised Lazarus from the dead and explained that those who place their faith in Him would live even if they died. He went on to say that believers would never die. We know from other Scriptures that He was speaking of the second death, the death of the soul that only unbelievers will face. Most believers, all except those alive at the time of the Rapture, will face physical death at which time their souls depart their body, but will never experience the death of the soul. Unbelievers face physical death and the eternal death of the soul. How vital to repent of sins and receive Christ as Savior!

### **PRAYING TO GOD**

**Friday .....Read Jeremiah 33:1-3**

*"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."* Another huge reason for Christians to live with hearts of praise is the promise of God to hear and answer their prayers. Answers to prayer are one of the most thrilling things in our lives. Just the thought of communicating with the True and Living God is awesome. And God enjoys our prayers according to what we read in Proverbs 15:8. I imagine people think that anyone can pray, and that is true; but it is also important to realize that prayer can be an abomination to God. Think of these words of Proverbs 28:9: *"He that turns away his ear from the hearing of the law, even his prayer shall be abomination."* Our faith in Christ gives us access to God; we can approach God on the merits of His shed blood that has cleansed us from sin. Not only does God delight in the prayers of the upright, He takes even greater delight in answering those prayers. Not always does God do exactly what we want when we want it; but He always does that which is best for us in His perfect plan for our lives.

### **OBEYING GOD**

**Saturday .....Read Exodus 19:4-6**

*"If you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the people on the earth; all the earth belongs to me."* What a precious truth this is for the Jewish people: they are God's special treasure. All of us have things we treasure. Maybe it is a gift we received from someone that really blessed our lives. We all have people that we treasure; family and friends. We treasure special memories. These treasures make our lives rich. To be among God's treasures is the greatest thing imaginable! That is what was the possibility for the Jews. To enjoy that amazing privilege, they had to be obedient. We know the Israelites eventually

disobeyed God and lost out, but we also know that God never forsook them. As a matter of fact, we have seen things come to pass in our lifetime that are a marvelous fulfillment of prophetic truth concerning Israel. They are back in their home land and central in international events. It is as if God were preparing things for the occasion of His Son, the Lord Jesus, to take the Throne in Jerusalem. Remember, Israel is a special treasure of God, and will be the place where His Son will return to planet earth. Are you ready?