

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of September 1, 2019

**THEME: "Infancy"
DIVINE ORDERS**

SundayRead Genesis 1:26-28

"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." This first command that God gave to Adam and Eve after He created them was to have children! Obviously, God wanted every person on earth to have a father and mother to start their journey through life. A family and home would lay the foundation for living! Does that not tell us something about the importance of a home and family life? This is the first influence on a person's life! Even God's own Son would begin life on earth in a home with an earthly father and mother. Yes, Jesus would experience having lived in His mother's womb for the beginning of His humanity! One big difference, however, is that His mother was a virgin, the only mother ever like that in that she would miraculously conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit rather than from a relationship with a man. This meant that the Lord Jesus would be born with a living spirit rather than a dead spirit that is the plight of man since sin had destroyed spiritual life in the man and the woman when they ate of the forbidden fruit in the garden of Eden. But having been born as any other person, our Savior faced life in all phases of human existence up to the time of His death on Calvary. He had the experience of a home and family. There can be no question that the family unit is the strongest determinant of success in the molding and development of a human life! Strong families make strong communities, and strong communities make strong nations. The Divine plan is for a child to have a loving father and mother!

DIVINE PURPOSE

MondayRead Psalm 127:1-5

"Children are the heritage of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is His reward." In this one verse of Scripture, we are told of the threefold purpose of God for the baby in womb of his or her mother: to pass on the heritage of the family of God; to provide a sense of fulfillment for the parents; and as God's expression of appreciation for their obedience to His command to replenish the earth mentioned back in the creation account in Genesis. Although all three are very significant, it might be concluded that the first mentioned is the most important and most valuable for the child who is about to enter into the world. Nothing would serve that child better than to realize the importance of experiencing God's love and having God's truth as a foundation for building a life. The earlier in life a person enters into a personal relationship with the Savior of the world and coming King of kings, the better! There is no better foundation on which to build a life than the living and written Word of God!

DIVINE BLESSING

TuesdayRead Psalm 128:1-4

"Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house; thy children like olive plants round about thy table." This is an interesting metaphor to describe the parents in a home, the wife is the vine of a planter, and children the fruit of the vine. That is the same metaphor that God uses to describe His family as we read this about His Son in John 15:1 and 5, where Jesus said this: *"I am the vine, and my Father is the husbandman...I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abides in me and I in him, the same shall bring forth much fruit."* Obviously, the branch must be connected to the vine to be productive. A severed branch is a dead branch. A branch gets its life through the vine, a relationship that is vital for a fruitful life. The fruit grower who finds nothing on the plants from which he was expecting to reap a harvest is sorely disappointed; whereas the one who sees a highly productive plant is ecstatic. So it is with parents of children! The home with children is a fortunate place indeed, and has been mightily blessed of God. What a tremendous comparison the psalmist gives to demonstrate the importance of the home and family! He compares the human family on His earth to His family that comes into existence by their entering

into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. As a matter of fact, Jesus makes reference in John 3:3-7 to a person's receiving Him as a birth, a spiritual birth, a birth into the family of God with citizenship in the kingdom of heaven.

PHYSIQUE

WednesdayRead Psalm 139:13-17

"My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought..."

What the Holy Spirit is telling us here through the inspired writing of the psalmist is that each of us is the handiwork of God our Maker in the womb of our mothers. Yes, each of us is one of God's masterpieces to be the person He wants us to be: our sex, our physical appearance, our physical strengths and weaknesses, and even what we call disabilities. Those who have what we consider disabilities who commit their lives to God by faith in Christ and His Word will find their disabilities to be an advantage in doing what God leads them to do. I praise God and marvel at those who are exemplary in this regard! I think of the many God-honoring hymns with which Fanny Crosby has blessed so many of us over the years as just an example. What we may call handicaps are no problem for God to those who praise God for what they do have rather than resent what they do not have. Our God is perfect and has made each of us in a way that can best serve Him. Are we thankful for that?

PERSONALITY

ThursdayRead Luke 1:39-45

"And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb." What an exciting and revealing detail that God has given to us in this account when Mary, the mother carrying the baby Jesus in her womb visited her cousin Elisabeth, who was also pregnant but a little further advanced. The child in Elisabeth's womb jumped for joy with the visit of his cousin in the womb of Mary! Imagine that! That tells me that a baby being formed in the womb of a mother has a personality: at least that is what John the Baptist demonstrated with that visit of His aunt and her baby in the womb. Now does that not put to rest all of these claims of those justifying abortion with the logic that life does not begin at conception as opposed to delivering. You would think that ultra-sounds would be convincing, but God's Word leaves no doubt. But, of course, unbelievers are just that: unbelievers. The day of judgment is coming when everyone will be a believer; but for some, too little too late! Yes, people have different personalities, and all of that begins even before birth!

DIVINE PERSONAL PLAN

FridayRead Jeremiah 1:1-5

"Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee: and before thou comest out of the womb, I sanctified thee; and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." This detail about Jeremiah in the months he was spending in his mother's womb gives us reason to believe that our omniscient God with perfect foreknowledge has a plan for our lives in mind when He is forming us in our mother's womb. Our God knows the future! He had given an overview of world history through the prophet Daniel by mentioning what turned out to be the Babylonian Empire, the Persian Empire, the Greek Empire, and the Roman Empire before they came into existence. He mentions in that prophecy of the coming worldwide reign of the Jewish Messiah that is yet to happen. God has revealed in the ninth chapter of Daniel a preview of the history of the nation of Israel by giving details of the two comings of their Messiah, our Savior, whom we know to be Jesus of Nazareth, born in Bethlehem that had been prophesied by Micah centuries before. Just as God has a plan for His chosen nation of Israel and the nations of the world, so He has a plan of the lives of individuals. The most exciting thing in life for each of us is to discover and fulfill that plan of God for our lives. We can do that by applying the teaching of Romans 12:2, which tells us this: *"Be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect plan of God."*

INFANT DEDICATION

SaturdayRead I Samuel 1:25-28

"For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given my petition which I asked of Him; therefore also I have lent him to the Lord." Hannah had been a disappointed woman because she had been denied the privilege of being a mother, something she desperately wanted. She had prayed fervently that God might bless her with that personal hope, and God finally gave her that for which she had asked. We can assume that it was His will all the time, but His timing is just as important as knowing His will. The apparent delay did make a strong prayer warrior out of Hanna, and she surely realized that a child was a special blessing from God. So blessed was she that she determined that she would dedicate her son Samuel to God. Hannah was true to her word, and Samuel turned out to be a real servant of God and committed himself to his mother's wishes when he was of age. He was indeed blessed to have had a godly mother. Many people profited from his ministry, and his mother had to be mightily blessed!