

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of August 23, 2020

**THEME: "The Ministry of Music"
SONGS OF PRAISE**

Sunday Read Ephesians 5:18-19

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord." God's people are people of joy, and that is often expressed by singing. Music is an important part of God's work, and God has given many of His people talent in making music, both vocal and instrumental. There are many accounts in Scriptures of people engaging in singing and in the playing of instruments. Jesus sang a hymn when He left the Last Supper and headed to Gethsemane for that memorable prayer of commitment to complete His mission in His first appearing. Moses led the Israelites in singing a hymn after they had successfully crossed the Red Sea in their flight from Egypt. David served our God by playing the harp in the palace of the king. A scene in heaven described in the book of Revelation tells of people singing around the throne of God in heaven. Our God is great, and worthy of our praise in song. Always we should have hearts of praise that break out in song to honor our Lord!

REDEMPTION

Monday..... Read I Peter 1:18-22

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of lamb without blemish and without spot." This truth about the precious blood of Jesus shed on the cross is the central theme of all Scriptures and ought to be the focus of all preaching and teaching from God's Word! It was at Calvary where Jesus provided a way for our holy God to grant a pardon to sinners because Jesus satisfied the law of God with His shed blood as a perfect Lamb. Never again would a lamb have to be slain, because Jesus, in a sinless human body, shed His blood. Having been born of a virgin without the sin nature of a natural birth, and having lived a sinless life, He was able to die for sinners in their place. In so doing, He proved a way of redemption for all people who would confess their sins and trust Him as Savior on the merits of His shed blood.

PRIESTHOOD

Tuesday..... Read I Peter 2:9-10

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a special people that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." These four descriptions God gives to Christians in this passage are very special and highly complimentary: chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a special people! The fact that these are God's descriptions makes them really meaningful! They carry with them a huge responsibility to live up to them. Being chosen by anyone gives a good feeling, but to be chosen by God is an honor beyond description, but that is a reality for every true follower of the Lord Jesus. To be a member of the priesthood means that the work of intercession at the throne of God for others is vital. Priests in God's work are, in a way of speaking, a go-between man and God. Prayer is a high privilege and a huge responsibility for

believers! God calls His family of believers a nation, not with physical boundaries on a certain continent, but a nation made up of people from all nations, all races, and all ethnic backgrounds: a special people on planet earth: one in Christ!

ANGELS

Wednesday..... Read Psalm 91:9-12

"For He shall give His angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways." I can't be sure that the angels sang, but I do think they loved to sing. We read this about the angels appearing to the shepherds in the field outside the town of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:13: *"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."* I realize that the word "saying" is used, but then in Ephesians 5:19, we see a reference to speaking as the word that seems to describe singing: *"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord."* Whether or not they joined in singing along with the saints who were singing, I am certain that they enjoyed the music they were hearing if that is all they were doing! Their main ministry today is to minister to the saints as we are traveling through earth in our lives. What a blessing to have the protection of God's angels, many times when we may be totally unaware of their intervention on our behalf; but there are testimonies of those who attribute certain "impossible" experiences to the work of an angel.

WORTHINESS

Thursday Read Acts 5:41-42

"And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were worthy to suffer shame for His name." The apostles of the Lord Jesus experienced some hard times because of the opposition to their preaching the truth of the gospel. Although they had the joy of seeing many become followers of Jesus, some of the religious and political leaders resented what they were preaching and finally had them put into prison. Even after they were found innocent of any wrongdoing, they were beaten before being released. What was their response to the troubles they experienced because of their witness? They rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for their Savior! They had committed no wrong; quite the opposite! To them, being beaten because of their obedience to God was an honor! Being punished for wrongdoing is shameful. To be found guilty of the crime (from a worldly viewpoint) that was actually an act of service for God was an honor!

THRONE OF GOD

Friday Read Hebrews 7:22-27

"Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come to God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." What a scene that is in heaven to picture God on His throne with Jesus at His right hand. What is a big part of their conversation? It is discussion about the followers of Jesus still serving Him on earth! Yes, as we read, Jesus is making intercession for us, asking God to bless us as we serve Him. I am sure He is asking God to meet our needs and to help us be alert to opportunities to witness for Him, the great work of which He spoke while on earth. Jesus is eager for that to be completed because it is then that He will take His bride home to His Father's house.

ETERNITY

Saturday Read Romans 6:22-23

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The greatest hope in life is the hope of eternal life. Because God created humans to be eternal beings, the joy of having eternal life is the greatest joy in life. Especially when you consider the alternative is eternal death in hell that was prepared for the devil. It was the sin of Adam and Eve that caused the death of their spirit, meaning that all babies of human beings were born with a dead spirit that needed to be regenerated. That regeneration occurs at the moment a person is born again by receiving Jesus as Savior. It is called a spiritual birth, a requirement for entrance into God's heaven for eternity.