

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of August 30, 2020**

**THEME: "The Messiah: His Coming"**

**SAINTS' RESURRECTION**

**Sunday ..... Read I Thessalonians 4 :13-18**

*"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord."* This Biblical truth is the greatest comfort possible for all Christians who have had loved ones die: their bodies will be resurrected when Jesus appears in the air to take true Christians to heaven. That is the next great event on God's calendar. Jesus demonstrated power over death when He called Lazarus to come out of the tomb where he had been buried a few days earlier. Then on the third day after His crucifixion, Jesus walked out of the tomb where they had placed Him. He had spoken of His going back to His Father's house, but would return to take them there too. We read these words of Jesus in John 14:3: *"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself: that where I am, ye may be also."* That is the future for all believers: a home in heaven! We are advised in today's Bible reading that Jesus will appear in the air to take believers to heaven before He comes to earth as the King of kings. When He appears in the air, all sinners who have accepted Christ as Savior and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus will leave earth to be with Him. The resurrected bodies and those still alive will join Jesus in that trip to heaven!

**END OF CHURCH AGE**

**Monday ..... Read Daniel 9:24-27**

*"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon the holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy."* The Jewish people are rightly looking forward to the coming of their Messiah to take the throne of David and restore Israel to be the Ruler of the earth. That is the covenant God made with David in II Samuel 7:16: *"Thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee."* Today's Bible reading speaks of *"an end of sin and everlasting righteousness."* However, that prophetic truth also speaks of the Messiah being *"cut off."* Looking back, we see this is a reference to the crucifixion of Christ. That crucifixion occurred 483 years after the imperial decree permitting the Jew to return and rebuild their holy city. But there is still 7 years yet to be fulfilled in that dramatic prophecy! The gap of time after the crucifixion is explained by this Church Age, the age on God's calendar in which we are now living. When the Church is complete and believers are taken up into the air, the final 7 years mentioned by Daniel will commence. God's Word is absolute truth!

**FINAL WITNESS**

**Tuesday ..... Read I Peter 3:10-15**

*"Be ready to give an answer to them which asks about the hope that lies within you in a spirit of meekness and fear."* When will Jesus appear in the air to take Christians to heaven? No one knows the day or the hour, but we do know it will be when God is finished the work of building the Church, when that last soul named in the Book of Life professes faith in Christ. That is why all Christians should be diligently following the command to be witnesses for our Lord. We are instructed in our reading for today to be ready always to witness! Our lives should prompt questions from others to whom we can share God's truth about His offer of a pardon from the penalty of sin. His desire that people should become part of His family by

receiving His Son as their personal Savior. It appears from the fulfillment of so many of the signs of the return of our Savior that His appearing in the clouds to take us to heaven is imminent. Let us be His light in this dark world, and humbly share His truth as the Holy Spirit opens up doors of opportunity!

### **MOVEMENT IN HEAVEN**

**Wednesday .....Read Revelation 4:1-4**

*"I looked; and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me, which said, Come up hither."* The book of Revelation, written by the Spirit-inspired apostle John, discusses the Church Age in chapters 2 and 3. It then, from chapter 4 on, details scenes in heaven as well as some descriptions of the seven year Tribulation Period on earth. The book concludes with some details of the Millennial Kingdom that closes with the Great White Throne Judgment of unbelievers. The final chapter describes the glorious creation of a new heaven and a new earth. The verse above is a transition verse from the Church Age to the Tribulation Period, and is a parallel to the scene Paul described in his letter to the Thessalonians that gives details of the appearing of Christ in the air. That is the end of the Church Age and the entrance of Christians into their eternal home in heaven!

### **BODY TRANSFORMATION**

**Thursday .....Read I Corinthians 15:51-54**

*"For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."* When believers are caught up to meet Jesus in the air, their bodies go through an immediate transformation into incorruption and immortality. They will no longer be susceptible to disease and death. The bodies of dead believers are restored to life in like manner. This is the final victory over the ultimate enemy of mankind: a victory over death, the consequences of sin from the time of Adam and Eve. True Christians who have been born into the family of God by faith in Christ are all brought together in this grand reunion in the clouds to be with our Lord in heaven. What a joy that will be: no more sorrow; no more pain; no more sickness; no more death! Forever!

### **GATHERING OF NATIONS**

**Friday .....Read Zechariah 14:1-3**

*"I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle."* The seven year tribulation following the Church Age will end with the final battle where all the nations of the world will come up against Israel. Finally, the descendants of Ishmael, the Arabs, will be in a position with their allies to fulfill their threat to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. It is interesting that in recent years nations represented in the United Nations have consistently been anti-Israel with the exception of the United States. Our President moved our embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the historic capitol city of Jerusalem, in a show of support for the nation of Israel. The day is coming when the United States will finally join other nations in fulfilling the prophecy in Zechariah. That will set the stage for the battle of Armageddon to close out the seven year tribulation. Be reminded that Christians are taken off earth seven years before that closing battle of the Age of Man on earth.

### **CORONATION OF JESUS**

**Saturday ..... Read Revelation 19:11-16**

*"He hath on His vesture and on His thigh written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."* The nations of the world indeed make their invasion of Israel with the goal of closing out their rule forever. But then God goes into action on His earth on behalf of His chosen

nation. The door of heaven opens, and out comes Jesus followed by His army of saints dressed in white. The power of His word defeats the enemy. Yes, the word of God is more powerful than all the artillery manufactured by man. There is no human strategy that can defeat God! One word from the Captain of our salvation ends the battle! The Battle of Armageddon is over and Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, takes the throne of David in Jerusalem to rule for one thousand years of peace on earth. Christ wins and Christ rules, and all the saints are here to enjoy the earth being ruled by our Savior, the one born to be the Savior of the world. Faith in Christ and God's Word brings victory!