

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of July 11, 2021

THEME: "History of Israel"

A GREAT NATION

Sunday **Read Genesis 12:1-2**

"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing." This covenant God made with Abraham was a Divine announcement of God's plan to establish a nation through which He would bless the entire world. God had hinted at His plan of redemption for mankind after Adam and Eve had fallen to the enticements of Satan and became sinners. God promised that He would ultimately defeat the devil with the seed of the woman, hinting at a virgin birth. His Redeemer, with the luxury of looking back, we now know to be Jesus, the virgin-born Son of God. When God made this covenant with Abram about a great nation, He knew that its greatness was that it would be the nation into which Jesus, the Savior of the world and coming King of kings, would be born. That would be the ultimate blessing promised to Abram that day.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

Monday **Read Galatians 3:6-14**

"That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." The nation of Israel that God established through Abraham would eventually be used by God to form a body of people of all nationalities. It would be comprised of Jews and Gentiles alike in one body of special people. That would be the body of people formed as one spiritual nation after the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is called the Church, and is made up of those who personally make the decision to receive Jesus as Savior. That body of people is also declared a holy nation in I Peter 2:9: *"Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation."* These people, by virtue of their faith in Christ, are called the children of Abraham in Galatians 3:26: *"And if ye be Christ's, then ye are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."* People of faith in Christ are heirs to the promise of God and the recipient of God's blessings!

REQUEST FOR A KING

Tuesday **Read I Samuel 8:1-5**

"Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways; now make us a king to judge us." God had ruled the great nation of Israel that began with Abraham for many years with the leadership of those to whom we refer to as the patriarchs and judges. For whatever reason this generation of Israelites decided that they wanted to have a king like other nations in the world. Because they insisted, even after God had warned them about the negatives of having a king, God told Samuel to anoint Saul as king. Great things were accomplished during King Saul's reign, but he also had his faults, not the least of which was jealousy. David, who had faithfully served King Saul, became a target because of his popularity that started with an amazing defeat of the giant Goliath of the Philistine army. God chose to pour out blessings on the nation of Israel mostly through

David whom He protected from the continued efforts of King Saul to kill him. One of the servants chosen by God to help protect David was Jonathan, the son of Saul. God uses people to do His will for His earth!

KING DAVID

Wednesday Read II Samuel 2:1-4

"They anointed David king over the house of Judah..." David had become the most popular person in Israel after his amazing defeat over the giant Goliath in the battle of Israel against the Philistines. Although too young to be in the Israeli army, David got involved in the battle while he was checking on the welfare of his older brothers who were engaged in the war. He did this at the request of his father who was concerned about his other sons who had gone off to battle. It was while David was on this errand that the giant Goliath challenged someone to step up for a duel instead of a battle that would leave many dead. The winner would be the victor with the loss of only one life, the loser of the duel. David volunteered to answer the challenge when no one else would. He had faith that God would give him a victory. That is exactly what happened, and he did it with a sling shot and a stone rather than the heavy equipment and armor normally used in battle. God indeed does great things for those who are willing to trust Him in doing His will on His earth!

THE MESSIAH

Thursday Read John 4:24-26

"The woman saith unto Him, I know the Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when He is come, He will tell us all things." Throughout their history in the days of the Old testament, the Israelites were looking for the promised Messiah to be their great Deliverer and King. Messiah and Christ are synonymous, so to say Jesus Christ is to say Jesus, the Messiah. Daniel had mentioned in Daniel 9:24 that the Messiah would come to rule the world 490 years after the Jewish people were given permission to return from captivity and rebuild the city of Jerusalem. He also indicated that the Messiah would be "cut off" after 483 years. Looking back, we are aware of that being a reference to the crucifixion of Jesus and the gap of time between the crucifixion and His return to be King of kings as the Church age. This age will end with the catching away of the Church to usher in the 7 year tribulation. Christ will return as the King of kings to end that 7 years rule of the Antichrist and begin His Millennial Reign. Jesus will rule God's earth in a 1,000 reign of peace!

THE LAMB OF GOD

Friday Read John 1:29-32

"Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world." The fundamental order of business for Jesus in His first appearing was to be the Savior of the world. Human thinking would cause one to think that would occur by His taking the throne of David to rule the world, as God had promised to David in II Samuel 7:16. That, however, would have to come later, because our holy God first had to deal with the sin problem that had befallen all humans. God's eternal kingdom would be free of sin and death, the penalty of sin. Throughout the days of the Old Testament, God forgave the sins of the people on the merits of the shed blood of a perfect lamb offered on the altar. That was according to His law as mentioned in Leviticus 17:11: *"Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin."* To be the Savior of the world as was announced by the angel at the time of His birth, Jesus had to be the sacrificial Lamb, a work that was completed at Calvary. That was how John introduced Jesus at the outset of His earthly ministry mentioned in today's reading.

THE LION OF JUDAH

Saturday Read Revelation 5:1-5

"Behold the Lion of Judah, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof." This is a scene from heaven in the future after the Lord Jesus had appeared in the air to take His followers home to heaven in what is commonly referred to as the Rapture. The earth had experienced the final seven years mentioned in Daniel 9 and called the Great Tribulation. The earth was under the rule of the Antichrist and subjected to the righteous wrath of a holy God. The book referred to in our Bible reading contained God's judgments. The honor of opening the book is the One referred to as the Lion of Judah, the son of Jacob mentioned in Genesis 49:8-10 which speaks of prophetic truths God used Jacob to convey about the future generations of his sons. Jesus was eventually born into that family and was indeed the fulfillment of that prophetic truth.