

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of July 25, 2021

### THEME: "History Foretold" PROPHECY

**Sunday** ..... **Read II Peter 3:1-10**

*"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night."* The final great age on God's earth is the Millennial Reign of Christ as the King of kings and Lord of lords. That will follow the seven year Tribulation, a time of God's judgment after His having taken all believers in the true Church off earth in what we refer to as the Rapture. That event will end the Church Age that began over 2000 years ago in Jerusalem as detailed in Acts 2. The final seven years of Israeli history in the 490 year advance notice God gave to Daniel will begin after Christians are caught up in the air. That is a period of time when God will again focus on His chosen nation of Israel to arrange for Jesus to take the throne of David in Jerusalem. His followers, who were eager for Jesus to establish His kingdom on earth, often asked Him when that would be. He does give some hints in this passage of Scriptures. One significant sign is the appearance of people who will scoff at the very idea that Jesus will come back as a King. Peter points out that people living at the time of Christ's return will notice, because there will be a loud noise and a great heat that will burn up what is on the face of the earth.

### MYSTERIOUS DREAM

**Monday** ..... **Read Daniel 2:1-5**

*"And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him."* In Scriptures, God has revealed His plans for the future in what we call prophecy. That is one of the strong evidences that God truly loves the world, that He would reveal that which would come to pass. That way no one has to be surprised, and all can prepare themselves. The ramifications of ignorance are devastating, so it is vital that people make themselves aware of things to come and be prepared. On the occasion in today's Bible reading, God chose to use the emperor to give an overview of what would be world history. In this dream of a beast whose body was made up of a combinations of minerals, God was foretelling the empires that would rule the world. The head typified the one of which Nebuchadnezzar ruled. That would be replaced by the Persian empire followed by the Grecian Empire. Eventually the world would come under Roman rule and then be subjected to a number of nations that make up the western world, not the least of which is the United States of America. Jesus will then rule!

### POWER OF PRAYER

**Tuesday** ..... **Read Daniel 2:17-19**

*"Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hanniah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions. That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret."* Totally confused and troubled by a perplexing dream, the Babylonian emperor ordered an impossible assignment to his advisers with death as the penalty if they failed to explain to him the meaning of the dream, the details of which he could not remember. This was obviously an impossibility and ridiculous. Daniel, one of the Jewish young men held in captivity, was fully confident that God could and would reveal both the dream and the meaning of the dream. He alerted his friends and they engaged in prayer. As a result of looking to God in prayer, God divulged in the dream

and the meaning. Daniel conveyed the details to the emperor and gave God the glory. God truly responds to prayer on behalf of His followers, and shares His truth for all the world through them. We are now those people!

### CURRENT SIGNS

**Wednesday ..... Read Luke 21:7-11**

*"And they asked Him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? And what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?"* Just as believers today are curious about the plans of God, so they were in the times of Jesus being on earth in His first advent. Jesus had on several occasions told His disciples that He would be leaving earth. That greatly disappointed them, and probably caused them fear in light of the fact that the religious rulers of that time came to hate Jesus, and obviously then His followers. Jesus did give them assurance that He would be returning to establish the Kingdom of Israel and take the throne of David in Jerusalem to rule the world. The disciples obviously wanted to know when He would do this. Although Jesus did not give an exact time, He did reveal some of the signs that would give clues. Among those signs are these: wars and rumors of wars, ethnic group strife, famines and worldwide diseases, earthquakes, false teaching contrary to God's truth, a hate culture, anti-Semitism, and the gathering of nations against Israel.

### BE FAITHFUL

**Thursday ..... Read I John 2:28 - 3:3**

*"Abide in Him: that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed at His coming."* Our Lord was good enough to give clear commands on how we should prepare ourselves to be ready for that greatest of all events in history. Jesus Himself emphasized that very thing as we read in Matthew 24:33 with these words: *"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."* How can we be ready? We must, as in today's Bible reading, abide in Him. And just how do we do that? Among other things, it suggests that we should be doing things that we would want to be doing if He were in our physical presence, as if He were right there with us. Now that would cause us to be careful to be where we would want to be if He came at that time. Would it not be gratifying if He came at the very time someone to whom we are witnessing made the decision to receive Him as Savior. A family get-together would be a wonderful time to be caught up with them to meet our Lord in the air. Whenever, we want to be engaged in something in which God would be pleased, and we would not have to be ashamed.

### BE BUSY

**Friday ..... Read Luke 19:11-13**

*"And He called unto His ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy til I come."* It is quite obvious that Jesus does not want us to be simply sitting around and waiting for His return; He wants to find us busy doing His work. And just what is that work? It is what He said in Matthew 16:18: *"I will build my church."* We should be committed to do what we can to win souls to Christ. Where and when do we do that? That could be any time or any place; maybe while at work by the way we do things as *"the light of the world."* Maybe at the very time we are inviting a friend or neighbor to church. Maybe at the very time we are in a discussion with someone about eternal things and Biblical truth. Maybe in fellowship with the family or friends.

### BE PRESENT

**Saturday ..... Read Hebrews 10:22-25**

*"Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is, especially as you see the day approaching."* God gives a clear command of something we should be careful not to neglect as we see all signs of the return of Christ around us today. Always it has been important to worship and fellowship together with fellow believers, but God says in this Bible reading today that it is particularly important as we near the end of the age and the day of His appearing! I would think that if He came on a Sunday morning, He would want to see us in church. If He came on a Wednesday evening, would He not be pleased to see His followers in a prayer meeting?