

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of August 1, 2021

THEME: "Biblical Trilogies: It Is Finished"

FINAL WORD

Sunday **Read John 19:23-30**

" *When Jesus had therefore received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head and gave up the ghost.*" Some people may conclude that these last words of Jesus on the cross before He died were words of despair and defeat. My own thinking is that they were a shout of accomplishment in a sense of victory! It indeed was mission accomplished because His whole purpose for coming in that first appearance was to pay the penalty of sin for all the world by His becoming the sacrificial lamb. His first public introduction by John the Baptist recorded in John 1:29 was this: "*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*" That required that He be crucified. His teaching and preaching ministry were great, the best ever on earth, and the many miracles were unparalleled; but His greatest accomplishment for the good of all people of all time was His death for them followed by His glorious resurrection giving the hope of eternal life for all who would become His followers.

EARTHLY MISSION

Monday **Read Matthew 5:17-20**

"*Think not that I have come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.*" While many Jewish people were convinced that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Jewish Messiah, many of the highly knowledgeable and very religious scribes and Pharisees had problems accepting Him. They were diligent students of the Old Testament law and prophecies; but, for whatever reason, they failed to see that Jesus actually fulfilled some of those in His miraculous birth and will eventually fulfill all of them as He said He would in our Bible reading today. Although they could be commended for their knowledge of the law and prophecies, they sadly were missing God's true purpose for having His law and prophecies written down. The One who was fulfilling the law and prophecies was the very person in their midst. One would think that the virgin birth alone, of which the prophet Isaiah spoke in Isaiah 7:14, would thrill them and draw them to Jesus; but instead they became adversarial. To fulfill the law and the prophets, Jesus had to become the sacrificial Lamb before He would become the King of kings. Praise God for His perfect law and for our Beloved Savior who fulfilled that law for all of us. Oh, what a Savior He is!

PASSOVER LAMB

Tuesday **Read Exodus 12:1-5**

"*Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year.*" The Passover is one of the most solemn of the Jewish faith; it is the celebration of that event which liberated the Jewish people from their bondage in Egypt. God had advised Moses that the death angel was going to pass over Egypt one night and kill the first-born in every household. The angel would pass over any home that had the blood of a sacrificial lamb on the door posts and lintel of the house. This would be God's way of convincing the Egyptian pharaoh to free the Jewish people from their bondage. Moses so instructed the Jewish people, and that is exactly what happened. As a result of this Divine judgment on the land of Egypt, the pharaoh was convinced that he should give the Jewish people their freedom. It is interesting that Jesus used the Passover feast to introduce God's New Covenant when Jesus gathered with His disciples at what we call the Last Supper. It was

there that Jesus, in anticipation of His death on Calvary, had them partake of the broken bread and juice of the fruit to symbolize what would be His broken body and shed blood as a sacrificial Lamb for all sinners.

GARDEN OF EDEN

Wednesday Read Genesis 3:9-21

"Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them."

God placed the first human couple in the garden of Eden. God advised Adam that he could eat of all the trees in the garden but the one that would result in death if he ate from it. God had made man in His image, which meant that man would have a free choice. It was in this garden that the first battle of spiritual war on earth took place. Satan invaded the garden and tempted Eve. She ate of the forbidden fruit, as did Adam. They lost their desire to have fellowship with God and tried to hide from Him. Their sin caused their spiritual death and eventually their physical death. Realizing they were naked, they made fig leaf coverings. God sought them out; and upon their confession of sin, He replaced their fig leaf coverings with coats of skin. That new dressing to deal with sin is actually prophetic. The attempt of man to deal with the sin problem was insufficient. The coat of skin meant the death of a sacrificial substitute was essential for God to forgive sin. Looking back, we can see that this was an example of God's law of forgiveness requiring a blood sacrifice.

GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Thursday Read Luke 22:39-42

"And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and kneeled down and prayed, saying, Father if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done." It is interesting that God again used a garden for what would be this most significant event ever. Jesus had introduced God's New Covenant at a Passover celebration. It was there that He had them partake of broken unleavened bread and the juice of the fruit of the vine. These elements were symbolic of His broken body and shed blood, the sacrifice to pay the penalty for the sin of man. The Old Covenant has served its purpose in that it proved that man could not live up to the demands of the law, that a new covenant would become essential for a holy God to forgive sinners. Jesus had to become a sacrificial Lamb. After having been born of a virgin without a sin nature and having lived a perfect life, His death would be a sufficient payment for the sins of all mankind. Jesus, in the garden, prayed for some other way, but yielded to this plan, the only way to have God's forgiveness. The cross and the resurrection would give all mankind victory over death by faith in Christ as Savior.

PEOPLE AS GARDENS

Friday Read Isaiah 58:8-12

"The Lord God shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." This is an interesting analogy to describe the life of a believer: a watered garden. The implication is that believers are empowered by God to have a productive, fruitful life for His glory. We know from Scriptures that is a life that produces, among other things, love, joy and peace. It is a life that God uses to bear fruit by reaching out to others with the gospel and bringing souls into a knowledge of Christ that may result in their acknowledging Him as their personal Savior. It is the will of God that His people are fruit-bearing people empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring glory to God.

ETERNAL FREEDOM

Saturday Read John 8:31-36

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Living in a land of freedom is indeed a high privilege for which we should be grateful. So many have had to live under the rule of self-serving autocrats as slaves serving a master. Spiritually speaking, Satan is the ruler of the darkness of this world. He has successfully blinded many, if not most people to prevent them from having the full benefits of a having a relationship with their Creator. He attacked the first human couple and has been busy ever since with his demonic and human vessels to prevent people from having a personal relationship and all the blessings of fellowship with their Creator. God has provided a way for people to be set free from this ruthless ruler. God gave us His Word so we can have His eternal truth; and He has given us His Son so He could give us a pardon from the penalty of sin. Praise God we have eternal freedom by faith in Christ as Savior and the Lord of our lives!