

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of October 10, 2021

THEME: "Zechariah's Zone" GOD'S DISPLEASURE

Sunday **Read Zechariah 1:2-15**

"The Lord hath been sore displeased with your fathers." God always wants the best for people, and He has given us the Holy Scriptures so we can have the best! We read that desire in II Timothy 3:16-17: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* The best life for any human being is to live according to God's law and His expectations. His enemy, the devil, beginning with the first family in the world, does all he can to draw people away from God. That is what the Bible calls living in darkness rather than living in the light of God's Holy Word. Whether it be individuals or nations, God expects obedience because He wants the best for people. To follow God and His teaching is the way to have a successful life with the blessing of God. That is spiritual truth, and a life that honors God will bring an inner peace that is impossible apart from God. Obviously, disobedience to His Word displeases God, the point made in today's Bible reading from the prophet Zechariah. He was making reference to the disobedience of Israel, God's chosen nation into which He would eventually send His Son Jesus first to be the Savior of the world and finally to be the King over His whole earth. In the Old Testament, God gave Moses his law and expected His people to comply with His law. When they did, they had God's Divine favor; disobedience brought God's disfavor. His people, the nation of Israel, had placed friendship with worldly leaders above their obedience to God's law: not good!

WORLDLY PRACTICES

Monday **Read I Samuel 8:4-9**

"The elders gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, and they said unto him, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways; now make us a king to judge us like other nations." To forsake the ways of God to follow the ways of the world is a terrible mistake. God is holy and omniscient and wants the best for people. As He pointed out in Isaiah 55:9, God's ways are far superior: *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."* Whether it is individuals in the conduct of their own lives or nations in the decisions made by ruling authorities, it is always wise to go by God's ways as revealed in the Bible. Praise God that the founders of our nation believed that and considered the Bible as the Supreme Law for humanity. They began their sessions at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia with prayer and Bible reading to incur God's favor upon our nation. They made the Bible the fundamental text for public schools. Our nation benefitted from that until 1963 when the Supreme Court erroneously declared that Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional. Worldliness results in calling good evil and evil good as warned by the prophet in Isaiah 5:20-21. That disobedience led to Israel's downfall and the scattering of Jews around the world.

RETURN TO THE HOMELAND

Tuesday **Read Zechariah 10:12**

"I will strengthen them in the Lord; and they shall walk up and down in His name, saith the Lord." After the reigns of David and Solomon when Israel was the most powerful nation in the world, their disloyalty to God led to their downfall and eventual scattering. That migration continued until the twentieth century when many Jews began to return to their homeland. That exodus to Israel by the Jews was greatly expedited when Hitler in Germany began to purge his

nation of Jewish people. God used what seemed to be bad to fulfill His plan of reestablishing the throne of David in Jerusalem for Jesus to eventually return to earth and occupy that throne as the King of kings.

UN RECOGNITION

WednesdayRead Genesis 12:1-3

"I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curse thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Midway through the 20th century, God was making progress in fulfilling His plans by having Israel again be a focal point of all the world. The question of all nations acknowledging Israel as a sovereign nation came before the United Nations to give them a seat in that world body. It was interesting how our President, Harry Truman, came to his conclusion to cast an affirmative vote to recognize Israel. He quoted the Scriptures mentioned in today's Bible reading in Genesis. Our President made a key decision for our nation because of his faith in Biblical truth. Israel was indeed recognized by the world's governing body, and the stage was being set to fulfill God's plan for His earth. Obviously, this led to a mass migration of Jews to their homeland, and now their nation is a key factor on the world scene. That is much to the dismay of the enemy of God, and Satan has a lot of willing agents to provide opposition. It is good for our nation to be an ally!

WORLDWIDE OPPOSITION

ThursdayRead Zechariah 14:1-2

"For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, , and the women ravished: and half the city shall go forth into captivity, and residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city." It is interesting to watch how God is bringing to pass all that He has revealed in His Word about His chosen nation of Israel. While the nation is prospering, it is also being targeted by her enemies. It is no mistake that we now see the Arabian nations, who are the offspring of Ishmael, the son of Abraham begotten by the maid Hagar, are the enemies of Israel, the son of Sarah, the wife of Abraham. Yes, Biblical truth inspired by God our Creator sheds light on world events. Do notice in our Bible reading today that the prophet said that all nations would come against Israel in a final battle. That means the United States will eventually take sides against Israel. There are evidences that current support of Israel's enemies is being promoted by some in our federal government. That might be a telling sign of total opposition to God's chosen nation. Is the stage being set for the final battle? Time will tell!

END OF THE CHURCH AGE

FridayRead II Thessalonians 2:1-7

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only He who now restraineth will restrain, until He be taken out of the way." In the New Testament, during which God entered into a new covenant relationship with His people on His earth, God has been working through His Church made up of both Jews and Gentiles alike in what I like to refer to as the Church Age on God's calendar. It is the true Church, made up of born-again believers, through whom God is working. The mission of the church is to spread the gospel of Christ around the world to include people of all nations to become true followers of Jesus Christ. With His perfect foreknowledge, God knows when that final convert will be reached, completing the Church. Currently, it is the Christian ethic lived through the lives of true Christians that is the greatest deterrent to evil,

because they are the people in whom the Holy Spirit indwells. They are the key to public morality and the restraint against evil. Today's Bible reading point out that the restraint will be taken away, an obvious reference to the catching away of the Church detailed in I Thessalonians 4:16-17. That event ends the Church Age!

RETURN OF CHRIST

Saturday.....Read Zechariah 14:3-4

"Then the Lord shall go forth, and fight against the nations, as when He fought in the day of battle." In this scripture, the prophet details the incident that will set the stage for Jesus to take the throne of David in Jerusalem. The nations of the world will have invaded Israel with the intent to fulfill their desire to wipe them off the face of the earth. Instead, they will have opened the door to their being subject to the rule of Israel under the headship of the Jewish Messiah, Jesus Himself. He will, with His followers who had gone to heaven seven years before, come to win that Battle of Armageddon to begin His thousand year reign on earth as the King of kings and Lord of lords!