

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of November 14, 2021

THEME: "The Prophet Jonah"

GOD'S CALLING

Sunday **Read Jonah 1:1-9**

"Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah, the son of Amitai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it: for their wickedness is come up before me." We can conclude from reading this portion of God's Holy Word that God has a special calling for each of His children. According to Psalm 139:13-14, He formed each of us with a plan in mind while we were in our mother's womb. In Jonah's case, God's plan was for him to go to Nineveh and share His truth with the people there. That city had a reputation as a wicked city, and was not a place where Jonah wanted to be. God could have wiped them out because of their wickedness as He had done with Sodom and Gomorrah, but He first wanted them to know of His love and hear His truth. Jonah was His servant to share that with those people and give them opportunity to get things right. That was then. God today wants people where He has placed us to know of His love and His truth as well! That is our calling! The Bible is for our instruction, and this experience of Jonah gives us a good lesson on working together with God to do His will! There obviously is no higher calling and privilege in life than to be an ambassador for Christ in our day.

GOD'S POWER

Monday **Read Jonah 2:1-10**

"Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord out of the fish's belly...And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land." When Jonah resisted God's call, God persisted in doing what He could to give Jonah the joy and privilege of being obedient to the plan of God for his life. When Jonah boarded a ship to go in the opposite direction, God sent a storm that resulted in Jonah's ending up in the water where he was swallowed up by a great fish. Instead of allowing the fish to do the natural thing and digest Jonah's body, God used the belly of the fish to be a prayer room for Jonah. In response to Jonah's prayer, God caused the fish to vomit up Jonah's body on dry land, completely intact, maybe healthier than when he was swallowed up. The experience gave Jonah the opportunity to be obedient to God's plan for his life and go to Nineveh. It is good for us to take notice of the fact that God controls nature! He used a storm and a fish to get Jonah on the right track. In our time here on God's earth, we hear a lot about climate control. As a matter of fact, the government has shut down a pipeline causing an unemployment problem and the need for Americans to pay higher prices as a result of the loss of our energy independence. All this in an effort for climate control! The key to climate control, according to what we see in the life of Jonah, is prayer: speaking to the One who is in control of the climate: God, the Creator!

GOD'S PATIENCE

Tuesday **Read Jonah 3:1-2**

"And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise and go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee." God, who is patient beyond description, spoke again to Jonah in response to his prayers. It was to emphasize that God wanted the people in Nineveh to hear His truth. Is it not wonderful that God did not give up on Jonah? God understood his hesitation, but God also knew Jonah's capability. So God rearranged things just to give Jonah the high privilege of being His spokesman to these needy people. How many times have we been the beneficiaries of God's patience! He has probably had good reason to give up on us, but He doesn't. Finally, when we submit to His will, we have the joy of serving Him as His ambassador to our part of His earth to share His love and truth to the place where He has placed us! Yes, God has plans

for His earth and for each of His children on His earth. The key to knowing and doing God's will, judging from Jonah's life, is prayer and obedience! Praise God for His patience!

GOD'S PLANS

WednesdayRead II Peter 1:19-21

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy: whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shines in a dark place..." It is amazing that we have God's prophetic truth so we can know His plans for His earth. The world has forecasters and fortune tellers, but they are subject to error. God's Word is sure! We can count on things that He says will take place to take place. History has proven God's prophecies to be certain in that so much of what He said in Old Testament prophecies has already happened. The prophet in Isaiah 7:14 prophesied the unlikely idea that God's Son would be born of a virgin, and Jesus was! The prophet in Micah 5:2 said that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem Ephrathah, and He was! The book of Revelation gives vivid details of that which is yet to happen according to God's plans. They will come to pass! That means the completion of the Church Age, the Rapture of the Church, the Seven Year Tribulation, the final battle at Armageddon, and the new heavens and the new earth. It is so good to know God's plans!

GOD'S WEAPON

ThursdayRead Ephesians 6:16-18

"Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." The earth is the scene of the war of all ages; the war between God and Satan. We know from reading Isaiah 14:12-15 that Satan's rebellion against God began in heaven. Satan, in the form of the serpent, attacked Eve in the Garden of Eden and the result was that humans were born sinners. We know that the serpent was Satan according to Revelation 12:9. Realizing His people would be constantly engaged in battle against the forces of evil, God provided the armor to fight spiritual war in Ephesians 6:11-18. The offensive weapon to be used to attack sin and the devil's advances is the Word of God. Jesus demonstrated that in Matthew 4:7 where He quoted Scriptures to stymie Satan's attack: *"Jesus said unto him, It is written..."* That example of our Lord is important because it serves us well when we have to resist the devil as instructed in I Peter 5:8-9: *"Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeketh whom he may devour: whom resist stedfast in the faith."* Our faith in God and His Word is the victory!

GOD'S LOVE

FridayRead Jonah 4:9-11

"And should I not spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than six score thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand, and also much cattle?" God had a love and compassion for those people who were in that wicked city, and He wanted them to know His truth. His love compelled Him to send one of His servants to share His Word with these people. This was a field where God wanted to reap a harvest, and He chose Jonah to be His ambassador. Christ demonstrated that same compassion in Matthew 9:36: *"When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them."* It is now our responsibility to share God's love with others in our communities in the way that God had chosen Jonah to share God's love to that field of harvest centuries ago.

GOD'S FAMILY

SaturdayRead Matthew 6:7-9

"But when thou prayest, use not vain repetitions as the heathen do, for they think that they will be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them, for your Father knows what things you have need of before you ask Him. After this manner pray ye: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven..." The key that transformed Jonah's life when he was in the prison of a fish's belly was prayer. That is our power as the disciples noticed that it was the power of Jesus while He was on earth. So impressed were they that they asked Jesus to teach them to pray. In His instruction, Jesus taught them to address God as Father. To have God as Father, a person must be born into God's family. That occurs when a person receives Jesus as personal Savior as mentioned in John 1:12: *"But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to be called the sons of God, even to them who believe on His name."* Those people who have received Jesus into their hearts are in the family of God!