

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of June 5, 2022

THEME: "Road to Bethlehem"

TWO ROADS

Sunday **Read Matthew 7:13-14**

"Narrow is the way that leads to life, and few there be that find it. Broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many there be that go on thereat." In a way of speaking, life for every person on earth is traveling on a journey on one of two roads to an eternal destination. One road leads to heaven and the glory of God; the other road leads to hell, the place of eternal darkness. By reading Romans 5:17-18, we know that all people begin life on the road leading to eternal condemnation in hell: *"For if by one man's offence death reigned by one, much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation, even so by the righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."* The only way to get off that road leading to eternal destruction and on to the road that leads to heaven is by making the decision to receive the Lord Jesus personally as Savior. That is the eternal truth that Jesus Himself made clear in John 14:6: *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me."*

TRIP TO BETHLEHEM

Monday **Read Luke 2:1-4**

"Joseph also went from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem." One of the most important trips made by any human beings in history was the trip Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem. It was a trip that seemed to very poorly timed from a human viewpoint because it was in the closing days of the term of Mary's pregnancy; the nine months were up! Surely, a man and a woman would not have planned to travel at that time! But they had no choice because the Roman emperor had issued a tax decree for which the citizenry had to go to their home city to register for the tax. Mary and Joseph had to plan the trip to Bethlehem, the city of David and of the lineage into which Joseph and Mary was born, and hope for the best. They could only hope that Mary would not come to full term until they could take care of business and get back home. But that is not the way that it turned out because the baby was arriving just at the time Mary and Joseph were arriving in the city of Bethlehem. They had to make do the best they could, and God provided!

MICAH THE PROPHET

Tuesday **Read Micah 5:1-3**

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall come forth unto me that is to be the ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." The amazing thing is that the birth of Jesus was exactly how God had planned for it! God does not allow Himself to be limited to the ways of man. He is the Creator and eternal Ruler of the universe. His ways are not limited to the ways of man. Another prophet made that very clear in Isaiah 55:8-9: *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thought than your thoughts."* For whatever His reasons, God had chosen the home of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to be the earthly family into which His Son would be born. To get them to Bethlehem was no problem for God. Unknown to the Roman emperor, God used him and his decree to accomplish His eternal plan. Yes, God is in control over His earth, and is not limited in any way to exert His power. There is a lot of Biblical prophecy being fulfilled today indicating Jesus' return to earth.

MARY, THE PARENT

WednesdayRead Luke 1:26-27

"In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David: & the virgin's name was Mary." God's choice to be the human mother of His Son may be surprising to a lot of people in that He did not choose from a wealthy royal family of renown. It appears as though the family He chose was involved in the building trade from what we read in Mark 6:3 which makes this comment about those who were in the synagogue: *"Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Judah, and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?"* What was it about Mary that God would choose her to be the mother of His Son? We can conclude that she was indeed a humble person with high morals from her reaction to the angel whom God sent to visit her that day. When told that she had *"found favor with God and would conceive in her womb the Son of God who would occupy the throne of David,"* her response was that it was impossible because she *"had not known a man."* Nevertheless, she showed she was a woman of faith by her response in Luke 1:38: *"Be it unto me according to thy word."* She was the fulfillment of the words of the prophet Isaiah.

MANGER, THE PLACE

ThursdayRead Luke 2:6-7

"And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Can you imagine the birth place of the King of all ages being in a manger in a stable in a barn? That is the epitome of humility! It surely set the stage for what would be the most humble life ever, and yet the most powerful! God hates pride, and the birth of His Son demonstrates that! Imagine, there was no room in the inn to accommodate a woman ready to give birth to her baby. But there were no complaints from Mary or Joseph. They simply were determined to make the best of what they had, even if it meant making a maternity ward out of a stable in a barn. What an example that is for all of the followers of Jesus: a long trip and then having to settle on the most humble of accommodations to be a maternity ward. This was the will of God for them!

MESSAGE, THE PLAN

FridayRead Luke 2:10-14

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." On the occasion of the birth of His Son, God sent an angel to shepherds in the field outside the city to announce this most important of all births. This was the birth of the Savior of the world; the message given from God to the shepherds! Why would the world need a Savior? There is no more important message for all humanity! Without a Savior, all people would have to spend eternity in hell that God prepared as the penalty for sin, rebellion against Him and His eternal law. God's love compelled Him to find a way to pardon mankind. Our holy God would not overlook sin, but would find a way to penalize the sin and pardon sinners from the penalty of eternal death. His sinless Son would be the Savior for all humanity.

MESSENGERS, THE PEOPLE

SaturdayRead Luke 2:15-18

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night." How interesting that God would choose shepherds to share this most important message in history. God did not go to the well trained people in synagogues or universities. God sent an angel to shepherds, perhaps the most unqualified as public speakers. This was a message that would be delivered through people by the power of the Holy Spirit. The simplicity

of the gospel is that Jesus is the Lamb of God who paid the penalty of sin with His shed blood to satisfy God's Holy Law that required the blood of a perfect human being. Only God's Son could be that One. Now God is using those who have accepted Jesus personally to be His messenger to share this vital message to people we know.