

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of January 15, 2023

THEME: "Letters of Peter"

HEAVENLY RESERVATION

Sunday**Read I Peter 1:3-5**

"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." Not only is the Christian life lived for the glory of Jesus the most rewarding life to go through our years on earth, it also means an inheritance to be realized in heaven! When a person receives Jesus as personal Savior, that individual is in the family of God; God is our Father in heaven, That means that true believers are heirs of God with a home in heaven! We believers share in the wealth of our Heavenly Father. What we give on earth in tithes and offerings adds to our inheritance. That is what Jesus was saying in Matthew 6:19: *"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal."* The abundant life promised by Jesus in John 10:10 means that the lives of believers have an eternal purpose. If that is brought to the conscious level every day of our lives, our daily lives take on a whole new meaning. What we do in our lives that have eternal value adds to our eternal bliss! Is that not another motive for serving our Lord daily!

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Monday **Read I Peter 1:7-11**

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." One of the joys of the Christian life is to win spiritual battles. The believer is assured of victory as declared in I John 5:4: *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."* The reason believers can be assured of victory is because of the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. That is the assurance of I Corinthians 6:19: *"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"* Accepting the Lord Jesus as personal Savior places a person in the family of God, and it also enlists a person into the army of Christ! The devil declared war on God's people in the Garden of Eden and has continued that fight until today. Every believer is a target. The good news is that God has equipped every believer with the power of the Holy Spirit, giving assurance of victory. That victory is sure if believers yield to the Holy Spirit in the conduct of their daily lives.

WORLDLY CORRUPTION

Tuesday **Read II Peter 1:1-4**

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." The corruption in the world, and even in the United States, has reached what appears to be an all-time high, possibly comparative to the days of Noah, when God destroyed the earth with a great flood. Jesus mentioned that comparison in Matthew 24:37: *"But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark."* The good news is that Jesus gave as one of the signs of His return to earth that those last days would be as the days of Noah. The bad news is that there will be many challenges. Secular temptations can be very enticing, but they

merely give opportunity to win battles for the glory of our Lord. True believers have the power of the Holy Spirit to stand up against the corruption that is in the world. By daily engaging in prayer and Bible reading, the Christian is in a position to resist the worldly temptations and use them to gain victory for the kingdom of God!

SCOFFERS

Wednesday Read II Peter 3:1-3

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts." People blinded to God's truth demonstrate that they do not consider the Bible to be the eternal truth of the Most High God. There are those who have fabricated theories on the origin of things, the meaning of things, and the future of things. These human philosophies really accelerated after the Supreme Court wrongfully declared the practice of reading the Bible in public schools to be unconstitutional. As a result of that decision, our nation has been secularized. There are many who now scoff at the idea of the infallibility of the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. Little do they realize that their scoffing actually prove the accuracy of the Bible as the Word of God as revealed in today's reading from Peter's epistle.

WILLFUL IGNORANCE

Thursday Read II Peter 3:5-9

"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water." There is no excuse for people to be ignorant of Biblical truth. Our sovereign God is aware of any person who has an honest desire to know God's truth, and He will be sure that they have opportunity to have access to His truth! His foreknowledge tells Him who will and who will not believe. We know from Romans 1:20 that every individual has a longing for God: *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: " Many try to satisfy that desire with teachings other than God's truth and accept false teachings."* That is why so many fall prey to the idea of evolution rather than accept the Biblical truth of God as Creator.

DAY OF THE LORD

Friday Read II Peter 3:10-14

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." The apostle Peter gives an alert to future events that are coming. This is not human prognosticism, but Divine revelation as we are told in II Peter 1:20-21: *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."* The day of the Lord makes reference to the promised return of Jesus. He will first take His true followers home to heaven, and then return seven years later to take the throne of David in Jerusalem to rule the world as the King of kings. The important thing for all believers is to be ready for this imminent return and to stay busy until He comes!

INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

Saturday Read II Peter 3:17-18

"You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." God used people of faith to position the United States of America to be the most powerful nation on His earth for the past couple of centuries. Many of our political and military leaders gave God the glory for our position of preeminence. The United States Congress in the 19th century approved the slogan "In God We Trust" as our national motto. In the past half century, however, our nation has become increasingly secularized. Whereas the United Nations has done a lot of good, it also may be a reason the United States has deviated from her rich heritage. Our rulers have compromised our basic Christian principles.