

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of December 31, 2023

THEME: "The End"

END OF THE YEAR

Sunday Read Proverbs 4:25-27

"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established." On this closing day of the year, it might be good to look back and praise God for His wonderful blessings of the past year. As good as that might be, it is even more important to look, ahead and follow the instructions given by God in today's Bible reading: "Consider the paths of thy feet." God is telling us to make plans. And God's people should seek the things that God may have planned for us in the coming year. That is the command Jesus gives us in Matthew 6:33: *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* Our primary goal should be to know and to do God's will!

END OF THE DAY

Monday Read Genesis 1:1-5

"And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." One of the most important days in the history of God's earth is His creation of the heaven and the earth! Our eternal God brought into existence His plans for an earth to be inhabited by people. He determined that it would be a sphere with four corners: north, south, east, West. That is what the prophet mentioned in Isaiah 40:22: *"It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in."* And Isaiah 11:12: *"And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."*

END OF THE WEEK

Tuesday Read Genesis 2:1-2

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made." God determined that time would be divided into minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years. There would be four seasons: spring, summer, autumn, winter. God actually created everything in six days and rested on the seventh day. That is amazing! Was there ever a more productive week? Throughout the Old Testament, that seventh day was a day of worship. In the new covenant, the day of worship was to begin the week as we see in I Corinthians 16:2: *"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."* There is no better way to start a week than to gather together with fellow believers to worship in the house of God! Not to do so is ignoring the command of God in Hebrews 10:25: *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."* Our threefold purpose for is exaltation of God, edification of the saints, and evangelization of the lost. It is good for a believer to capitalize on this opportunity! WE are told this truth by our Savior in John 4:23-24: *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers*

shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

END OF LIFE

Wednesday Read II Corinthians 5:1-8

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." Life expectancy has changed over the years for whatever God's reasons are. In the early days, as we read in Genesis, there were those who lived hundreds of years. Genesis 5:5 says this about Adam, the first human: *"All the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died."* And Genesis 25:17: *"And these are the years of the life of Ishmael, an hundred and thirty and seven years: and he gave up the ghost and died; and was gathered unto his people."* By the time of the psalmist, life expectancy changed as is indicated by this truth in Psalm 90:10: *"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."*

END OF THE AGE

Thursday Read I Thessalonians 4:15-17

"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." We are now living in the Church Age. Jesus spoke of this new age in the history of mankind when He said this in Matthew 16:18: *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* The church had its beginning in Jerusalem and spread throughout the known world at that time. Some of those places are mentioned as Books of the Bible in that they were the recipients of Paul's letters. They included Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, and Colosse. The book of Revelations cites other early local churches in Revelation 2 and 3. Now God has local churches all over the world where He places believers as it pleases Him as we read in I Corinthians 12:18: *"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."* The church will be complete at the Rapture of the Church, the appearing of Jesus in the air described in today's Bible reading.

END OF THE TRIBULATION

Friday Read Revelation 19:11-15

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." The book of Revelation details the events of the seven year tribulation. The antichrist will have free reign with the Church having been removed from earth. But God will send two witnesses to share the gospel message. The seven years will end with the battle of Armageddon where the nations will have gathered to give Israel, God's chosen nation, her final blow. That battle will be won by Jesus returning to be their King!

END OF TIME

Saturday..... Read Revelation 21:1-5

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." The end of the Bible details a new creation, the eternal kingdom of God. It will be populated by the believers of all ages. All believers have the gift of eternal life as mentioned in Romans 6:23: *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Time will have given way to eternity. Sadly unbelievers will be in the lake of fire prepared for the devil as mentioned in Revelation 20:15: *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* All humans are eternal beings and will be either in heaven or hell forever at the end of time and beginning of eternity.