

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of January 21, 2024

THEME: "Chosen People"

GREAT NATION

Sunday.. Read Genesis 12:1-5

"And I will make thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing." When the people on earth embarked upon building a tower to try to reach heaven, as detailed in Genesis 11, God decided to divide the people into language groups. That resulted in a division of the people on earth into many nations. Because of His love for humanity, God wanted to have a relationship with them to enjoy companionship and fellowship. God's plan was to send a Redeemer so He could extend a pardon to sinful humanity. His plan then was to choose one nation into which He would have that Redeemer be born. Abraham was His chosen vessel to form that nation into which He would send the Redeemer. That nation is Israel, the name God gave to Jacob, one of Abraham's sons. That nation formed centuries before the birth of Christ is still in existence and is the focal point of world events today, the major topic in the news! Many Jews have migrated into nations around the world, with many in the United States of America.

NEW NATION

MondayRead Romans 10:10-13

"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him." Although God had worked for centuries through the nation of Israel, He loves the whole world: the people of all nations. That is the message of John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* All people of all nations who personally accept Jesus as Savior are one people, which God call a holy nation. It is a spiritual nation made up of people redeemed by the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God. That nation is God's Universal Church, referred to by Jesus 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."* People in this church by faith in Jesus as Savior are citizens of heaven. We know that by the teaching in Philippians 3:20 NLT: *"But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior"*

HOLY NATION

Tuesday.....Read I Peter 2:9-10

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." God refers to this holy nation as His Chosen people, a royal nation of believers cleansed by the blood of Jesus as a holy nation over which He rules! God refers to this holy nation as His Chosen people, a royal priesthood, and a special people! Their responsibility is to share His marvelous light! That light is the Lord Jesus as He proclaimed in John 8:12: *"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."* The implication of priesthood is that these people are the vessels who serve as mediators between God and people. The responsibility of intercession is huge. Intercessory prayer is arguably the most important responsibility of the believer. Prayer brings God into the picture! Nothing is more important!

APOSTLES

WednesdayRead Luke 6:12-19

"And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles." When Jesus became a man He laid the foundation for His church by calling twelve men to be His apostles. He used Matthew, Mark, and John to write books that became part of the Bible. By being in the company of Jesus during His earthly ministry the apostles were well trained to do God's work in the formative years of the church. The book of Acts details much of the ministry of the apostles and then the work of some of the early believers, particularly Paul.

CHOSEN BY JESUS

ThursdayRead John 15:10-16

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." Notice that Jesus refers to His followers as His "chosen people" God's chosen nation, Israel, was the nation that brought the Savior into the world and will be the nation from which would be part of the New Testament in the Bible. By being in the company of Jesus during His earthly ministry, the apostles were well trained to do God's work in laying the foundation of the church. The book of Acts details much of the ministry of the apostles and then the work of some of the early believers, particularly Paul.

NEW TESTAMENT SAINTS

FridayRead Romans 1:1-7

"To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." The early church was formed during the days of the Roman Empire. God actually used a Roman emperor to issue a tax decree so the virgin Mary would get to Bethlehem for the birth of the Jewish Messiah to fulfill the prophecy in Micah 5:2: *"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."* It is noticeable that the believers were referred to as saints, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. These saints are God's chosen people to complete the building of the Church. Jesus will rule the world when the nations of the world invade God's chosen nation of Israel in the near future. Jesus will return with the saints that He had taken home to heaven.

DEPARTURE OF THE SAINTS

Saturday.....Read Revelation 4:1-4

"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither." Today's Bible reading details the departure of the true Church. The previous chapters in Revelation spoke of the Church Age. When the Church is completed, Jesus appears in the air to call all His people to heaven. That event, known as The Rapture, is detailed in I Thessalonians 4:16-17: *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."* When true Christians are called home to heaven, the seven year tribulation begins. It is a time of the Rule of the anti-christ on earth and God's judgement. All

nations will gather to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. At the Battle of Armageddon, Jesus will return to earth, win the battle, and take the throne of David as King of Kings!