

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of June 30, 2024

THEME: "Declaration of Independence"

GOD'S LIGHT

Sunday..... . Read Isaiah 42:1-10

"I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles." The story of America actually had its beginning with Christopher Columbus, an Italian explorer dating back to the 1400's. He was inspired as an explorer by the passage of Scripture in today's Bible reading. It was his desire to take the light of the Christian faith to the people in the far eastern part of the continent of Asia. His idea was to travel west rather than south around the southern coast of Africa. The result of his courageous decision was the discovery of the continent of America. Perhaps he was influenced by the truth of Isaiah 40:22: *"It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth..."* This tells us the earth is round, meaning sailing west would eventually take you to the east. This set the stage for an Age of Exploration that ultimately led to the new nation which became the United States of America. Columbus discovered a new land to be God's light.

RULER OF NATURE

Monday Read Matthew 8:24-27

"But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!" The disciples who were with Jesus in a boat crossing the sea of Galilee were fearful because of a sudden storm that rocked the boat. They called on Jesus, who responded by bringing a great calm. He demonstrated that He could control the weather. Our founders were also very aware of this supernatural power of our God. We know that from the first paragraph in our Declaration of Independence. They wrote this: "...among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them." They were apparently aware of the role of nature in the voyage of the Mayflower, the ship so instrumental in the founding of our nation. Headed for Virginia and hostile Indians, a wind blew them off course. That caused them to land in Plymouth, resulting in meeting up with a friendly tribe of American Indians.

NEW YORK FOG

Tuesday.....Read Psalm 23:1-6

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." The British army, under the leadership of General Howe, had successfully trapped the colonial commander, George Washington, in New York City. The British troops had the city surrounded anticipating a capture the next morning. But God, the Ruler of Nature, sent a dense fog over the city. Washington and his forces were able to make an easy escape from the city and avoid a surrender that would end

the war in a British victory. This enabled Washington to head south to Philadelphia and regroup. With this opportunity to, in a sense, start again, Washington and his troops had the stage set for a victory at Valley Forge. Washington's faith in God resulted in victory.

CREATOR

WednesdayRead Genesis 1:1-8

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Our founders said this in our Declaration of Independence: "We are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights: That among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." I can only imagine what those men, who wrote that founding document for our nation, would say to educators today who propagate Darwin's theory of evolution. God emphasized creation in the very first statement in the Bible. Why would that not take precedence over a theory written by a man in the nineteenth century after the birth of Christ? He certainly was not there at the creation, he could only speculate! Our founders believed God and His Word!

NEW NATION

ThursdayRead Genesis 11:1-8

"Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." This detail was God's reaction to those who planned to work together and build a city with a tower that reached to heaven. Seeing that, God issued a Divine Judgment that resulted in His confounding their speech, and He scattered them around His earth. This was the beginning of foreign nations and foreign languages. It is interesting that the founders of our nation, the Pilgrims, were inspired to settle in the land we call America, so they could be free to practice their faith. These people were from England, so English became the basic language of the United States of America, a new nation formed by God's people.

SUPREME JUDGE

Friday Read Acts 17:28-31

"Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." The teaching of God in His Holy Word is that believers should be loyal to the governing bodies of the nation. The colonists, many if not all, were true Christians and realized that!

However, when they had no representation in the British government and were treated improperly, they felt compelled to declare their independence and start a new nation. As believers in God, they felt it was His will that they should be free, and they appealed to Him as the Supreme Judge for the rectitude of their intentions.

DIVINE PROVIDENCE

Saturday Read Deuteronomy 31:1-6

"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

In their closing statement, the founders made it clear that it was "with a firm reliance on Divine Providence" that they would declare their independence. They felt it was the will of God and were totally depending on Him for the success of their courageous endeavor. Obviously, they wanted a nation where believers could freely practice their faith in Almighty God and in obedience to His Holy Word. The Bible became a textbook in the early schools in public education.