

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of October 20, 2024

THEME: "Habakkuk"

REBELLION

Sunday Read Habakkuk 1:1-3

"Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? For spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention." Habakkuk was describing his nation which was in rebellion against the ways of God. Our God is a God of peace and tranquility. Because the public was not following God's ways, the land was filled with violence and contention. So it is with those that reject God. By nature, humans are sinful and that leads to strife. That discord can be at the national level, and it also exists at the personal level. The result is family discord privately and civil strife publicly. The only way to have real and lasting peace is to do things God's way, as He has revealed in His Word, the Holy Scriptures! The first rebellion in the history of the world was Satan's rebellion against God. That resulted in Satan's expulsion from heaven. He took up residence on earth as the ruler of darkness to counteract God's light. That eternal war will end when Satan is assigned to hell forever.

NATIONAL SIN

Monday Read II Thessalonians 2:1-7

"For the secret power of Lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way." For whatever the reason the nation of Israel had turned against God, and leaders sought to push for personal power. The big picture is by turning against God, they unknowingly placed themselves under the power of the devil, God's arch-enemy. This means they were spiritually destitute and living only for the physical and material. That brings temporal satisfaction only and is never totally fulfilling! By turning against God and His truth, the nation become prey for Satan. What happened to the nation Israel centuries later happened to the United States of America. In 1963, our Supreme Court took Bible reading out of public schools. The door was opened for Satan to infiltrate public schools and the minds of our youth.

BAD REPORT

Tuesday Read Habakkuk 2:1-4

"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith." The soul of man is what really defines a human being and distinguishes people from animals. The soul indwells the body to be in contact with the physical world, which is God's earth. When a person receives Jesus as Savior, that individual then has spiritual life and an awareness of God and the spiritual world. The prophet refers to such a soul as not being upright, out of tune with God. Such an individual is self-centered. That is a very limited life because, at best, it focuses basically on the immediate, and misses out on things of eternal value. If a human soul is not upright, looking to God and His ways,

it is living in spiritual darkness. The emphasis becomes temporal without regard to the eternal. Jesus fixed that by conquering death with a resurrection. Faith in Him restores eternal life.

SPIRITUAL DEATH

Wednesday Read Genesis 3:1-8

"And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden." God made man to have fellowship with his creator. God gave man all he needed for a happy, fulfilling life with only one restriction. Adam fell to the devil and violated that one restriction and immediately lost his fellowship with God. He then tried the impossible: to hide from God. Adam lost his spiritual life! That was his connection with Almighty God. Adam and Eve could now reproduce only sinners! All humans except the virgin born son of God are born sinners!

FAITH

Thursday Read Hebrews 11:1-3

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Habakkuk 2:4 *"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."* No matter how good a person tries to be, he or she falls short of perfection and is unfit for God's sinless heaven. Praise God that He so loved the world that He sent His Son to be the Savior of the world on the merits of His shed blood. The devil tries to deceive people into thinking religion and a "good" life gets them into heaven. It is so important for Christians to get the gospel message.

GOD'S WRATH

Friday Read Romans 1:16-20

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Our God is holy! He is a perfect and righteous God. Man is made in His image, but man fell into sin, and was deserving of the wrath of God. Being eternal, that means that man was destined to spend eternity in the hell prepared for the devil and his demons. That is the reality mentioned in Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death." Praise God that the verse ends this way: *"...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ the Lord."* The blood of Jesus paid the price.

GOD'S MERCY

Saturday Read Ephesians 2:4-5

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace ye are saved." Habakkuk made reference to God's mercy in Habakkuk 3:2 *"O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy."* We can praise God for His love and mercy because He is a holy and righteous God who hates sin. We read of that in Psalm 5:5 *"The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity."* Because of His love for humans, our merciful God came up with a way to grant sinners a pardon and restore eternal life to them. He sent His own son to be a perfect human Lamb to pay the penalty of sin by shedding His blood. The hymn writer said it all in the song "Calvary Covers It All."