

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of March 2, 2025

"In Paradise"

THE CROWD

SundayRead Luke 23:17-21

"But they cried, saying, Crucify him." The Pharisees and Sadducees were very familiar with all the Old Testament teachings on the King of Israel being the ruler of nations. They were anticipating this eternal reign of international peace with Jerusalem as the capitol city of the world. Jesus rightfully claimed to be that King to take the throne of David, but had other business to take care of first. He had to be the Lamb of God before taking the throne. Sin had to be dealt with first so the people could live in God's righteousness. The devil had to be defeated and sinners pardoned. Little did the crowd know they were playing into God's hands with the call for crucifixion. There had to be a death for their to be a resurrection, a victory over death. The crowd's call for a crucifixion was a support of God's eternal plan of redemption, and hope for a lost and dying world. God's ways are perfect! There are still scoffers today who mock Christ and His people!

RESPONSE OF JESUS

MondayRead Luke 23:35-43

"Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Jesus was on the middle of three crosses with criminals, one on each side. While suffering, they entered into a conversation with Jesus. The one in a scoffing tone suggested that if Jesus were indeed the Messiah as He claimed, that He prove His Divine power and free Himself from the cross. The other, in a humble tone, reprimanded him and expressed faith in Christ by asking Him to "remember him when He came into His kingdom." Jesus responded by saying, "Today you shall be with me in paradise." Physical death is not the end, it is the beginning of life in the eternal realm: heaven or hell. Hell is the destination of all people, sinners by birth. Only those who are have received God's pardon from the penalty of sin will be in heaven. That pardon was made possible by the death of the sinless Savior. Those who receives Jesus personally are granted a pardon from the penalty of sin by our righteous God! Death for a believer is the stepping stone into heaven!

SATAN'S FAMILY

TuesdayRead John 8:44-45

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do." From the eternal viewpoint, there are two spiritual families on earth: the family of God and the family of Satan. The eternal homes of the two families. Heaven is the eternal home for the family of God; hell is the home for the family of Satan. These religious accusers of Jesus missed the fact that He was the virgin born child prophesied by the prophet in Isaiah 7:14: *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."* They

accused Jesus of being born as a result of fornication. Their accusations validated the fact they were children of Satan, God's enemy! Their eternal home is the place prepared for the devil.

THE CROSS

Wednesday..... Read Matthew 27:30-35

"And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots." The prophetic truth in the Bible is amazing. Only God could give such details of future events long before they actually happened. In the various Old Testament accounts of the crucifixion of the Messiah, the one in Psalm 22:18 gives this precise detail: *"They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."* No human writer could possibly have known such an occurrence centuries before the crucifixion. The writers of the Holy Scriptures were truly inspired by God, the Holy Spirit as we read in II Timothy 3:16: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

LAMB OF GOD

Thursday..... Read John 1:25-29

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Throughout the Old Testament, the Jewish people consistently offered a blood sacrifice on the altar to attain God's forgiveness for their sins. Even in the garden of Eden, God replaced Adam's fig leaf covering with a coat of skin. Obviously, that meant the death of a sacrificial animal. The law of God's forgiveness was established then and there. It is specifically spelled out in Leviticus 17:11: *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."* With Jesus' blood on Calvary's cross, there would never have to be another sacrifice. The Lamb of God is the Savior of the world.

THE COMMENT

Friday Read Luke 24:40-44

"He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me." Moses leading the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt included an amazing detail on God's plan for granting a pardon to sinners: the blood on the door posts and lintels. A blood sacrifice is made possible only by a blood sacrifice as stated in Hebrews 9:22: *"without shedding of*

blood is no remission." The prophet Isaiah gave details of a suffering Savior in Isaiah 53:5: " But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:.."

THE FINISH

Saturday Read John 19:28-30

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." In the Gethsemane prayer, Jesus was hoping for a way other than His crucifixion for God to issue a Divine pardon for sin rather than the actual nailing to the cross. On the cross, Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" My conclusion about this is that it is a shout of victory, not despair. With the crucifixion, Jesus completed the purpose of His mission in the first coming. To be the sacrificial Lamb of God. For God to issue a Divine pardon to sinners, a perfect human being had to be a sacrificial lamb. Born of a virgin without a sin nature, and then a sinless life, Jesus was the perfect Lamb.