

Daily Bible Study

“Christmas 2010”

Selected Scripture

December 12 – December 18, 2010

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY – As we approach *Christmas 2010* I decided to take and put together a Bible Study which draws from various studies we have done in previous years. This will be a bit of a potpourri (assortment) that will not necessarily be a continuous theme throughout the week. With that said, Enjoy and celebrate the birth of King Jesus, our Savior and friend. We find only three chapters into the first book of the Bible the first prophecy concerning Jesus Christ. This prophecy is concerning the birth of Christ and more specifically the fact He would be “*born of a woman*”. **Genesis 3:15** not only prophecies that Jesus is the “*Seed*” of the woman, but also tells the outcome of the struggle between Him and Satan. **Genesis 3:15** “*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.*” The “*Seed*” Jesus Christ crushed the head of Satan at the cross where He made it possible for us who are “*In Christ*” to become victorious as well. Then in the New Testament we read of the fulfillment of the woman’s Seed in **Galatians 4:4-5** “*But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*” Jesus, the promised and prophesied One is also the Savior and light. The prophet Isaiah wrote of Christ Jesus as being the One who would be given by God to fulfill this. The prophet details to us the wonderful blessings that Christ would bring as “*the covenant to the people*”. You will also notice that it is “*God the Lord...*” because of who He is that provides the guarantee to these blessed promises. Read again both the Old Testament prophecy as well as its New Testament fulfillment. **Isaiah 42:5 - 7** “*Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.”* **Luke 2:25 - 32** “*And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”* **Matthew 1:21** “*And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.*”

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: *Father God, Thank You for having this wonderful plan for My salvation before I even existed. Jesus thank You for coming to earth and paying my penalty by Your death.*

TUESDAY – We'll now look at some details concerning the Lord's birth. First is the prophecy that Jesus Christ would be "*born of a virgin*". No other human being has ever been born as Christ was, without the aid of a man (male). There are those who would argue that a virgin can conceive and give birth to a baby. They may be correct as science and man have devised ways of implanting the sperm of a man into a woman to make this possible. But mark this beloved, **NO** one has ever been born without that seed from a male **EXCEPT** the perfect, sinless, virgin born Savior Jesus Christ. Prophecy & Fulfillment: **Isaiah 7:14** "*Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*" **Matthew 1:18 - 25** "*Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."* So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,*" which is translated, "*God with us.*" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS." Another prophecy in Scripture concerns the birthplace of the Savior. The prophet Micah some 700 years before the birth of Christ prophesied that He would be born in "*Bethlehem Ephrathah*". The name Bethlehem means "house of bread" while Ephratha means "fruitful". We know there were some incredible circumstances that happened to bring about the fulfillment of this prophecy. It is very easy to see that only the One "*whose goings forth are from of old, from the days of eternity*" could make this all happen. This One is none other than the eternal God incarnate; in the person of Jesus Christ. **Micah 5:2** "*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.*" **Luke 2:4 - 7** "*Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*"

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for confirming Yourself as God with such amazing prophecies that You then fulfilled against what would appear often to be “overwhelming odds”.

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY – As mentioned yesterday, Jesus Christ has always existed as the eternal God. He came to earth “born of a woman” more specifically a “virgin” and then He even told us where He would be born. Now let’s look at a character trait of this man Jesus Christ. We find in the writings of the prophet Jeremiah that this Jesus would have a title that only He possesses. The prophet Jeremiah said He would be called “*THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS*”. In contrast to every other baby that has ever been born and every person who has ever lived Jesus Christ alone was and is perfectly “*righteous*”. The ramifications of this are absolutely incredible and of utmost importance. Without the righteousness of Christ all men would be forever lost and under God’s just and holy condemnation. Read: **Jeremiah 23:5 - 6** “*Behold, the days are coming,*” says the LORD, “*That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*” **2 Corinthians 5:21** “*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” The final thing concerning prophecy & fulfillment is something that is not mentioned very often. It is however very, very important. It is dealing with the “*ascension*” of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to earth and fulfilled the plan of God perfectly and then was received back into glory affirming His rightful place as the Lord of all. Christ forever reigns with His Father, as He has come and in His perfect life and His redemptive death and bodily resurrection has fulfilled in every detail all the prophecies concerning His life’s work. Read: **Psalms 68:18** “*You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, even from the rebellious, that the LORD God might dwell there.*” **Ephesians 4:8 - 9** “*Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.” (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?”* **Mark 16:19** “*So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.*” A very familiar verse pertaining to the Christmas story is found in **Luke 2:14**. It is here that the angels are praising God over the birth of Christ and they say, “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*” This is taken from the New King James version but if you look at your Bibles you will most likely see a footnote here relating to this phrase. You can study this in detail on your own but suffice to say, the verse can be very misleading if not studied. It may seem that God is throwing “*peace and goodwill*” around to “*ALL men*” **or** that you must do something to “*earn*” His goodwill. Both are incorrect and the verse may be better translated “*peace toward men on whom God’s sovereign pleasure rests.*” God’s peace is not a reward for something we do nor is it granted indiscriminately on all people. It is His gracious gift given to those who are the objects of His

good pleasure. Read: **Ephesians 2:8 - 9** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” **Titus 3:4 - 7** “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Jesus, thank You for accomplishing victory over sin & death that only You could. You are the conquering King and I praise & worship You. Father, Your love is undeserved. I could never earn Your favor. Thanks for grace, forgiveness of sin and making me Your child. .

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – We talked about many things this week. As we approach Christmas Day let us truly reflect & meditate on what that day represents to us as believers. We celebrate the greatest gift that could ever possibly been given, the birth of our glorious Savior Jesus Christ. And, His atoning death on Calvary for our sins is the most wonderful news anyone could receive. Thank Him that He arose victorious over sin and death and that He is coming again and that of His kingdom there will be no end. This great gospel gift was made available through the one born in Bethlehem’s manger so long ago. **Romans 5:12, 15 - 21** “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man’s offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, Jesus, Spirit; Thank You for the gift of salvation we celebrate.