

In two of the Gospel records, we first meet John the Apostle, the disciple and servant of Jesus the Messiah, when he is working with his father Zebedee and his brother James on their fishing boat near the Sea of Galilee. Jesus calls to James and John to follow him and they immediately leave their fishing and follow him. Even though this is the first time we are introduced to John by name, it may be that John was one of the two disciples of John the Baptist that were introduced by John the Baptist to Jesus shortly after his baptism.

In this incident recorded in the Gospel according to John, (chapter 1 verses 35-42) John the Baptist was with two of his disciples when he saw Jesus. He points out to them that Jesus is the Lamb of God. Immediately these two disciples follow Jesus and spend the day with him. One of them is identified as Peter. The other is not identified. However, in the Gospel according to John, many times he refers to a particular person but does not name him. It is believed that John is referring to himself. Several times he refers to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved".

John was one of the first disciples of Jesus and probably had been a disciple of John the Baptist before following Jesus. John was devoted to Jesus and we see that he was very close to him. John, with his brother James and friend Peter were chosen by Jesus to go up the mountain with him and see his glorification. It was also

John, James and Peter that Jesus chose to go further with him into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray with him on that last night. During the Last Supper it was John who "reclined next" to Jesus. It was John who was at the foot of the cross with Jesus' mother. And it was John to whom Jesus entrusted the care of his mother when he was dying.

John, the rough, uneducated fisherman from the despised area of Galilee, was a man who knew the love of God and the love of his Son Jesus. He was totally dedicated to his Lord. He believed he was the promised Messiah. Following Jesus was not easy. John knew the hardships and the dangers but he also knew the power of the miracles and the power of Jesus' love and compassion. He saw day in and day out the caring and love that Jesus had for the people who many times only followed him for the bread and fish and for the healings.

He would see Jesus' patience with the disciples as they doubted, or had arguments among themselves, or wanted to know "who would be the greatest in the kingdom". John had experienced that love and compassion himself. He referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved". Probably one of the instances that John would remember was the time when they received the news of John the Baptist's beheading. Jesus took his disciples to Bethsaida to withdraw to a place alone. Jesus knew that his disciples, especially John and Peter, would be grieved

by this news.

During his long lifetime as a disciple and servant of Jesus, John would suffer many difficult times. John the Baptist whom he followed and respected was beheaded. His own brother James was murdered by King Herod and Peter, his close friend, was killed. The church was persecuted first in Jerusalem, and then throughout the Roman Empire. But through all these horrendous times John continued to believe in God and in his love, and that Jesus was God's Son and his Lord. He continued to believe that God was working out his purpose and that he would send Jesus again to the earth.

John knew the love of God. He had experienced that love through His Son. In the two books and three letters that he was inspired to write, that intimate knowledge of God's love comes through and is one of the outstanding themes of these writings. Here are some examples:

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

*"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." (John 14:20-21)*

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## *Portrait of a Saint* The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved (*Continued*)

(Continued from page 1)

“... but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.” John 14:31

“ My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.” (John 15:12-13)

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his

one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. (I John 4:7-12)

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. (I John 3:22-24)

The final book of the Bible is entitled “The Revelation to John”. The first verse of this book tells us that it is revealing of “what

must soon take place” and was made known to John by Jesus through an angel. The book is a warning to believers that many horrific things will happen before Jesus returns. It is an exhortation to remain strong in faith and persevere in these difficult times. It is also a reminder that God is working out his purpose in the things that happen on this earth. When John saw these terrible and awesome visions he must have been appalled and overwhelmed as Daniel had been. But he remained strong in his faith and in his love. John’s last words in response to Jesus’ promise of his coming are these:

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. (Revelation 22:20-21)*

## *Bible Principles* “I am the resurrection and the life.”

One day when Jesus and his disciples were several days’ travel from Bethany, they received word that Lazarus, their friend, was very sick. Much to the disciples’ amazement, Jesus did not hurry to Bethany where Lazarus lived in order to heal him. In fact Jesus waited another two days before starting out to Lazarus’ home. Finally Jesus told his disciples that Lazarus was asleep but the disciples misunderstood:

*After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen*

*asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."*

*His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.*

*So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." (John 11:11-14)*

By the time they arrived Lazarus had been dead for four days and

was already placed in a tomb. Mary and Martha, his sisters, were distraught. Each of them said to Jesus that if he had been there, their brother would not have died. Martha even states: “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day”.

From this account found in John chapter 11 we learn that Martha, a disciple of Jesus, had the hope that her brother would rise from the dead “at the last day”. It is at this point that Jesus tells her “I am the resurrection and the life”. Then

(Continued on page 3)

*(Continued from page 2)*

Jesus goes on and shows Martha, Mary, and all the other mourners what resurrection is all about. He orders the stone of the tomb to be removed. In a loud voice he calls out “Lazarus come out!” And Lazarus, the man who had died four days previously, walks out of the tomb still wearing the grave clothes.

There’s nothing better than a visual object lesson to teach us what resurrection is all about. Jesus wanted his disciples to understand that even though he would be crucified and be in the grave for three days, God would raise him back to life again. They had seen the resurrection of Lazarus. They saw his body come back to life. They walked and talked with him.

The hope of every follower of Jesus is the resurrection of the dead. In fact, if there is no resurrection, there is no hope. Many people are surprised when they learn that the words “immortal soul” or “immortality of the soul” are not found in the Bible. In truth, the Bible teaches the very opposite. It teaches that the soul is mortal—that it can and does die.

*The soul who sins is the one who will die. (Ezekiel 18:20)*

*“...be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body ...” Matthew 10:28*

Soul refers to the person, the life of a person or being. Even animals have “souls”, that is they have “being” or “life”.

From the beginning, the wages or result of sin was not eternal torment in hell for an incorporeal immortal soul. The wages of sin is death. That was the warning given to Adam if he ate of the tree. It was the final consequence of Adam and Eve’s disobedience. Death is the end of life not the transition to another life. The Bible is clear on this point:

*“...when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.” Psalm 104:29*

*Man's fate is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; man has no advantage over the animal. Everything is meaningless. All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. (Eccl. 3:19-21)*

*By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” (Genesis 3:1)*

Likewise, the hope of eternal life for every believer is not the hope of an incorporeal immortal soul going to heaven. The hope of

every believer is the resurrection from the dead. Life, this time immortal life, will be given. Just as Jesus was raised from the dead, so that is the hope of his followers. Paul the Apostle wrote a long explanation of the meaning and importance of resurrection in the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians. Here are some excerpts from his writing:

*“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (Verses 20-26)*

*“I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be*

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

*changed-- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O*

*death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Verses 50-57)*

Jesus was the first to be raised from the dead to an immortal life. That is, he is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (died) and been resurrected. All the children of Adam die—the wages of their sin. All those in Christ Jesus look forward to being made alive again—the gift of God through Christ Jesus. When

will this happen? When he comes. All of us are now “flesh and blood”. We are perishable and mortal. But in Christ Jesus death is swallowed up in victory. The perishable—the dead will be raised to life. The perishable will be made imperishable. The mortal will be made immortal. When? When the last trumpet sounds—when Jesus returns to this earth.

### ***Concerned about the Middle East?***

*Palestinian Statehood, Gaza Attack, Islamic Jihad, Arab-Israeli Clashes, War with Iraq*

All of these issues constantly occupy the time and space of the current news media. Also, they all have important connections to Bible prophecy and the timely pamphlet, *The Middle East and Bible Prophecy*, can help you understand better these current events.

To receive a free copy of this pamphlet send your name and address to DailyBibleReader, P.O. Box 16070, Newport News, VA 23608 or e-mail [info@dailybiblereader.com](mailto:info@dailybiblereader.com).

### ***Free Booklet Offer***

We would like to send you a very helpful booklet entitled “A Faith that Makes Sense” by Todd Treadway of Denver, Colorado. This booklet is a brief survey of a number of Bible Teachings contrasted with Popular Theology. It is an excellent way to start your search for Bible Truth.

To receive a free copy of this book send your name and address to DailyBibleReader, P.O. Box 16070, Newport News, VA 23608 or e-mail [info@dailybiblereader.com](mailto:info@dailybiblereader.com).

## Major Themes of the Prophets

The scheduled Bible readings from the "Daily Bible Reader" for the last three months of the year include many of the prophetic books in the Old Testament and the New Testament prophetic book of Revelation. In all of these books of the prophets there are a number of consistent but eternally relevant themes and teachings. In order to understand these prophetic books it is helpful to know the history and background found in both the Old and New Testaments. It is also helpful to know the mission that was given to the prophet.

One important principle of understanding prophecy is the concept of "dual fulfillment". Many times a prophecy is given that has an almost immediate partial fulfillment but the complete fulfillment came many years later or has yet to be fulfilled. Keep in mind that the test that a prophet is truly speaking the words given him by God is that the prophecy has true fulfillment. The immediate partial fulfillment gave veracity to the prophets in their time.

One of the major themes in the prophetic books is a call for the rebellious and sinful people to repent. They are told of the consequences if they do so. In reading the historical books of the Old Testament it becomes clear that in both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah the kings, priests, and peo-

ple continually forgot their God, disobeyed the law, and worshipped idols. They were warned over and over again of impending destruction because of their disobedience. Finally this testimony is given at the end of the second book of Chronicles:

*The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians...(2 Chronicles 36:15-17)*

Examples of the warnings of coming disaster because of the people's rebellion are found in Ezekiel and Jeremiah:

*"Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!" (Ezekiel 18: 30-32)*

*I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon," declares the LORD, "and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. (Jeremiah 25:8-9)*

Repent and live is the theme. It is as true today as it was then. In fact the theme of the destruction and exile of Israel and Judah is a forerunner of the greater prophecy of the destruction of the worldly, godless nations in the last days: the battle of Armageddon. This prophecy is found in several places in the Bible:

*Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war! Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men draw near and attack. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, 'I am strong!' Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there. Bring down your warriors, O LORD! 'Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow—so great is their wickedness!' Multitudes, multitudes in the*

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

*valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. (Joel 3:9-14)*

*I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. (Zechariah 14:2-4)*

*Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!" Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. (Revelation 16:16-20)*

The descriptions in the prophetic books concerning the time of God's judgment against the

worldly kingdoms are horrific and overwhelming. They are meant to be in order to warn us just as the prophets of old warned the people of those times. But the prophets have an even greater message. That is the message of salvation and the coming Kingdom of God on the earth. Jesus, the Messiah, has come once to save people from their sins. He comes a second time to cleanse the earth and to rule as God's Son on the earth. The promise of this coming King is found throughout the Bible:

*"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. (Daniel 2:44)*

*The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name. (Zechariah 14:9)*

*In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

(Micah 4:1-2)

*I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. (Revelation 21:22-25)*

*But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. (I Corinthians 15:22-26)*

These prophecies are not to be taken lightly. God has promised and warned us that he will do as he has spoken. Just as the Babylonians came and destroyed Jerusalem as Jeremiah prophesied, the prophecies concerning the judgment and destruction of the kingdoms of men and the establishment of God's kingdom on earth will be fulfilled.

## Questions from Readers

**Question:** *In the January 2010 Newsletter there is an article concerning "Do You Believe in Jesus?" You quote several verses that appear to say that there are certain things that a believer has to do to be saved. I thought that we are saved by faith not by works.*

**Answer:** This is a question that has perplexed many people. There are some verses in the Bible that may give the impression that we have to "earn" salvation. One example is the parable of the sheep and goats found in Matthew 25. Other verses seem to say that we are saved purely by the grace of God and we just need to believe. One example is Ephesians 2:8-9 *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works..."*

The real answer in this lies with our understanding of some of these words that we use constantly but may not completely understand. There is one fact to keep in mind: No matter how perfect we may be from this point on in our lives or how many good works we may do we cannot earn salvation. It is impossible. On the one hand, faith is not faith if it

does not result in works. That is, true faith and belief brings action and change: *"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."* (James 2:17)

So if we truly believe God's grace we respond to his love and love our neighbor by helping those in need. This is the example in the parable of the sheep and goats. Those acts of helping do not save us but the belief in God's love and grace has resulted in those actions and those actions become the evidence or outworking of our faith.

Likewise, our belief and faith in Jesus leads us to follow him, to become like him. The works of belief and faith, such as baptism, do not save us but are evidence of our faith. In God's grace, when we place our faith and reliance on him, he is able to change us and make us into his people who give glory to him in our lives. Some additional Bible readings on this subject include Romans chapters 3 through 6 and chapter 8, Hebrews chapter 11, and James chapter 2.

**Question:** *Who are you?*

**Answer:** We are a group of Bible students who firmly believe that God's message of salvation is found in the Bible and only in the Bible. We maintain the DailyBibleReader.com website and publish the Quarterly Newsletter in order to encourage each person to read, study, and search for themselves the message of God.

We belong to a group called the Christadelphians. The name comes from a combination of two Greek words (the language of the New Testament) and simply means brothers [and sisters] in Christ. We are a worldwide religious community and place a great emphasis on each person in the community reading and studying the Bible for himself or herself.

*If you have questions that you would like to submit to the Daily-BibleReader Quarterly Newsletter please write us at PO Box 16070, Newport News, VA 23608.*

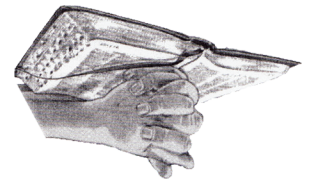
*If you have any friends that would like to receive this newsletter on a regular basis, please send their name and address along to the above address.*

### **Tuesday evening Bible Study Group**

We would like to invite you to a Bible study group which meets **every Tuesday at the Hampton Inn and Suites**, 12251 Jefferson Ave, across the street from the Patrick Henry Mall. The class **starts at 7:00 PM and ends at 8:30 PM.**

We are currently reading and studying from Paul's letters in the first half of the class and in the second half we are looking at a number of passages from both the Old and New Testament that have to do with the Gospel of Peace. (Rom 10:15). What is that "gospel of peace" and what are the "glad tidings of good things" that Paul talks about in Romans? Please join us.

Your  
DailyBibleReader  
Quarterly  
Newsletter



DailyBibleReader  
PO Box 16070  
Newport News, VA 23608

## Daily Bible Readings for October, November, December

### *Read the Entire Bible in One Year*

Day	October		November		December	
	Old Test	New Test/Psa	Old Test	New Test/Psa	Old Test	New Test/Psa
1	Hosea 11,12	Titus 1	Jerm 19-21	James 3	Eze 12-14	Psalm 139
2	Hosea 13,14	Titus 2	Jerm 22,23	James 4	Eze 15, 16	Rev 1
3	II Chron 1,2	Titus 3	Jerm 24-26	James 5	Eze 17, 18	Rev 2
4	II Chron 3,4	Philemon	Jerm 27-29	I Peter 1	Eze 19,20	Rev 3
5	II Chron 5,6	Psalm 110, 111	Jerm 30, 31	I Peter 2	Eze 21, 22	Rev 4
6	II Chron 7, 8	Psalm 112, 113	Jerm 32, 33	I Peter 3	Eze 23, 24	Rev 5
7	II Chron 9,10	Hebrews 1	Jerm 34-36	I Peter 4	Eze 25, 26	Psalm 140
8	II Chron 11,12	Hebrews 2	Jerm 37,38	I Peter 5	Eze 27, 28	Psalm 141
9	II Chron 13,14	Hebrews 3	Jerm 39-41	Psalm 120, 121	Eze 29-31	Rev 6
10	II Chron 15,16	Psalm 114, 115	Jerm 42,43	Psalm 122, 123	Eze 32, 33	Psalm 142- 143
11	II Chron 17,18	Hebrews 4	Jerm 44-46	Psalm 124, 125	Eze 34, 35	Rev 7
12	II Chron 19,20	Hebrews 5	Jerm 47,48	II Peter I	Eze 36, 37	Rev 8
13	II Chron 21,22	Psalm 116, 117	Jerm 49,50	II Peter 2	Eze 38, 39	Rev 9
14	II Chron 23,24	Hebrews 6	Jerm 51,52	II Peter 3	Eze 40, 41	Psalm 144
15	II Chron 25,26	Hebrews 7	Ezr 1, 2, 3	Psalm 126, 127	Eze 42-44	Rev 10
16	II Chron 27,28	Hebrews 8	Ezr 4, 5, 6	Psalm 128, 129	Eze 45, 46	Rev 11
17	II Chron 29,30	Psalm 118	Ezr 7, 8, 9	I John 1	Eze 47, 48	Psalm 145
18	II Chron 31,32	Hebrews 9	Ezr 10 Neh 1	I John 2	Dan 1,2	Rev 12
19	II Chron 33,34	Hebrews 10	Neh 2,3,4	I John 3	Dan 3,4,5	Rev 13
20	II Chron 35,36	Psa 119: 1-24	Neh 5,6, 7	I John 4	Dan 6,7,8	Rev 14
21	Lam 1,2	Hebrews 11	Neh 8,9	I John 5	Dan 9,10	Psalm 146
22	Lam 3,4,5	Hebrews 12	Neh 10,11	Psalm 130, 131	Dan 11,12	Rev 15
23	Jerm 1,2	Hebrews 13	Neh 12,13	Psalm 132, 133	Habakkuk 1-3	Rev 16
24	Jerm 3,4	Psa 119: 25-48	Esth 1,2,3	Psalm 134, 135	Zephaniah 1-3	Psalm 147
25	Jerm 5,6	Psa 119: 49-74	Esth 4, 5, 6	II John	Haggai 1, 2	Rev 17
26	Jerm 7,8	Psa 119: 75-96	Esth 7-10	III John	Zechariah 1-3	Rev 18
27	Jerm 9,10	Ps 119: 97- 120	Eze 1, 2, 3	Psalm 136	Zechariah 4-6	Rev 19
28	Jerm 11, 12	Ps 119: 121-144	Eze 4, 5, 6	Psalm 137	Zechariah 7-9	Psalm 148
29	Jerm 13, 14	Ps 119: 145-176	Eze 7,8,9	Psalm 138	Zechar 10-12	Psalm 149, 150
30	Jerm 15, 16	James 1	Eze 10,11	Jude	Zechar 13,14	Rev 20, 21
31	Jerm 17, 18	James 2			Malachi 1-4	Rev 22

See page 5 for some thoughts on the daily readings.

[www.dailybiblereader.com](http://www.dailybiblereader.com) *Make it a habit!*