

project 4:4

one year one bible one church one lord

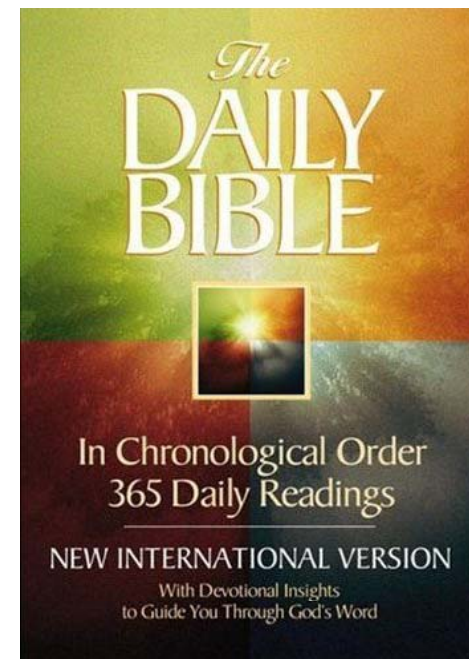
Lesson 8 - A Holy Nation

February 21, 2010

PV Pleasant Valley Church of Christ

This Week

- ▶ We'll cover readings for February 14-20
- ▶ Parts of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy
 - ▶ Moses' Last Address
 - ▶ Religious and Ceremonial Laws
 - ▶ Special Feasts



Introduction

- ▶ The people of Israel have been wandering in the desert for 40 years.
 - ▶ Why?
- ▶ They now stand ready to enter the Promised Land
- ▶ Joshua has been selected to be Moses' successor
- ▶ Moses is recounting the history of the Nation from Egypt to this point

- ▶ What are some of the significant points of Moses' address?



A Stern Warning

- ▶ Numbers 33:55-56 (page 201)
 - ▶ ⁵⁵“But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land, those you allow to remain will become barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will give you trouble in the land where you will live. ⁵⁶**And then I will do to you what I plan to do to them.**”



The Chosen Nation

▶ Deuteronomy 4:32-35 (page 209)

- ▶ ³²Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created man on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. **Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of?** ³³Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? ³⁴Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by miraculous signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? ³⁵You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other.



The Shema

- ▶ Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (page 211)
 - ▶ ⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
⁵Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.
⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.
- ▶ What Jesus said was the “greatest commandment”



The One God

- ▶ Deuteronomy 7:9-11 (page 212-213)
 - ▶ ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God **is God**; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. ¹⁰But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him. ¹¹Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today.



The True Prophet

▶ Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (page 224)

- ▶ ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. ¹⁶For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.” ¹⁷The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. **¹⁹If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account.**



Significance of Feasts

- ▶ **What purpose did each feast and offering serve?**
 - ▶ Feast of the Unleavened Bread
 - ▶ Feast of Weeks (Harvest or Firstfruits, later known as Pentecost)
 - ▶ Feast of Trumpets (known as Rosh Hashanah – First Day of Jewish New Year)
 - ▶ Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
 - ▶ Feast of Tabernacles (Booths or Ingathering)



Jewish Months

- ▶ Nisan (Abib)
- ▶ Ziv (Iyyar)
- ▶ Sivan
- ▶ Tammuz
- ▶ Av (Ab)
- ▶ Elul
- ▶ Tishrei (Ethanim)
- ▶ Cheshvan (Bul)
- ▶ Kislev
- ▶ Tevet (Tebeth)
- ▶ Shevat (Shebat)
- ▶ Adar I & II



Jewish Months

- ▶ Based on a lunar calendar (cycle=29.53 days)
 - ▶ Each month 29 or 30 days in length
- ▶ Month began on evening of New Moon
 - ▶ Declared by the testimony of those who first witnessed the crescent moon
- ▶ 12 lunar months is 11 days shorter than a solar year
 - ▶ “Leap months” were added as necessary (~3 years) to keep Passover in the spring (when the barley was ripe)
 - ▶ Hence Adar I and Adar II
 - ▶ 19-year cycle
- ▶ Reason why Easter Sunday moves around

Feast of Unleavened Bread

- ▶ Also known as:
 - ▶ Passover (Late March – Early April)
- ▶ Began on the 14th day of Abib (Nissan)
 - ▶ Would fall near a full moon
- ▶ Purpose:
 - ▶ Reminder of the actual Passover event and the protection of the Israel's firstborn
 - ▶ Reminder of Israel's salvation from slavery in Egypt, which was the rescue of God's firstborn people
 - ▶ Became a reminder of God's sacrifice of His own firstborn



Feast of Weeks

- ▶ Also known as:
 - ▶ The Feast of Harvest
 - ▶ The Feast of Firstfruits
 - ▶ Pentecost (50 days; 7 weeks + 1 day)
 - ▶ Modern-day Shavuot
- ▶ Began on the 6th day of Sivan
- ▶ Purpose:
 - ▶ Celebration of the harvest
 - ▶ Commemorate giving of the Torah to Moses



Feast of Trumpets

- ▶ Also known as:
 - ▶ Rosh Hashana (“head of the year”)
- ▶ Occurred on 1st day of Tishrei (Early Sept – Early Oct)
- ▶ The start of the Jewish Civil New Year
 - ▶ Calendar year advances on this date
 - ▶ Currently in Hebrew Year 5770; counted since Adam
- ▶ Purpose:
 - ▶ Day of celebration in conjunction with civil new year
 - ▶ Reminder of God’s creation



Day of Atonement

- ▶ Also known as:
 - ▶ Yom Kippur
- ▶ Holiest day of the Jewish year
- ▶ Occurred on 10th day of Tishrei (Mid Sept – Early Oct)
- ▶ Only Jewish ceremony to include fasting
- ▶ Purpose:
 - ▶ Remind the Nation of Israel of their sin
 - ▶ Make atonement for the sins of the Nation
 - ▶ Remind Israel of the costliness of sin



Day of Atonement (cont.)

- ▶ High Priest made atonement for the sin of Israel
 - ▶ First for himself, then for the people
 - ▶ Sacrificed a bull for his own sins
 - ▶ Entered the Holy of Holies with blood and incense
- ▶ Two goats were involved
 - ▶ One sacrificed for the sin of the people
 - ▶ The other had the sins of the people confessed over it and was released in the desert – the “scapegoat”
- ▶ Blood sprinkled on the Ark, the Tabernacle and the Altar



Feast of Tabernacles

- ▶ Also known as:
 - ▶ The Feast of Booths
 - ▶ The Feast of Ingathering
 - ▶ Sukkoth
- ▶ Joyful seven-day feast, from 15th to 21st of Tishrei (Late Sept – Late Oct)
- ▶ Purpose:
 - ▶ Thanksgiving for the fruit harvest
 - ▶ Reminder to Israel of desert wanderings due to sin



For Discussion

- ▶ Since God is more concerned with the heart and inward devotion, why does He command the establishment of these external feasts and offerings?
- ▶ Why do you think God required priests as mediators for the offerings?
- ▶ Since we no longer live under the old law, what are the lessons for us from this section?
- ▶ What is the symbolic importance of these feasts and offerings regarding Christ?



Your Turn ...

- ▶ What insights have you gained from this week's study?
- ▶ What did you find in these passages that you have never seen before?
- ▶ How did the Lord speak to your heart through the Word this week?
- ▶ How will your walk with Him be different as a result?



Next Week

- ▶ Readings for February 21-27
 - ▶ The Demands of Holy Living

Questions?

