



Daily Devotionals

The Sins of Israel and Judah and the Necessary Judgment of God

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About the Writers



Nathan Noel Rogers has served as the pastor of the Longview Missionary Baptist Church in Longview, Texas since 2010. Nathan grew up in East End, Arkansas and attended East Union Missionary Baptist Church as a child. He was saved in 1992 when he attended camp at Pine Springs Camp with a friend from Faith Missionary Baptist Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

In 1994 Nathan moved to Sheridan, Arkansas where he met his high school sweetheart and eventual wife Ericka (Taylor) Rogers. They were married in 1999. They have two children, Bethany and Micah.

Nathan surrendered into the gospel ministry in 1999 while a member at Lonoke Baptist Church in Morrilton, Arkansas. He has served churches in Morrilton, Harrison, Cave City, Arkansas and Longview, Texas.

Nathan has attended seminary classes at the Missionary Baptist Seminary in Little Rock, Arkansas, Central Arkansas Baptist Bible Institute in Benton, Arkansas and Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary in Henderson, Texas. Nathan has received Bachelor's degrees in Theology, Bible Ministry and Youth Ministry. He has also served on the teaching staffs at Central Arkansas Baptist Bible Institute and Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary.

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Mark David Clements is senior pastor at New Liberty Baptist Church in Garland, Texas. He has been married to Jenny since 1996 and God has blessed them with four children: Noah, Mahlah, Nathan and Rhoda. Mark is a graduate of Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary, and he and his family were privileged to serve in the southern Philippines as missionaries for seven years. During these seven years, Mark served as an instructor and Dean of Students at Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary and planted Grace Baptist Church. Mark is passionate about studying, teaching and preaching God's Word and helping people experience transformed lives through faith in Christ.

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Beverly Barnett grew up in a Missionary Baptist deacon's home, was saved at the age of nine and joined Hatley MBC, Hatley, MS. She married Nicky Barnett in 1971. Bro. Barnett has pastored in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Florida for the past twenty-eight years. In each of Brother Barnett's pastorates, Beverly has taught children in Sunday School or children's church.

Beverly returned to school in 1985 and graduated with honors as a LPN. In 1991, she graduated from Northwest Alabama Community College with an associate degree and became a registered nurse. She has been a guest writer for "Women of the Harvest" magazine, her hometown newspaper and writes a monthly newsletter. She continues to study the art of writing.

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☞ March Scripture Readings ☞

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|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ February 27 | Leviticus 25—27; Matthew 14:15-36 |
| ☐ February 28 | Numbers 1; 2; Matthew 15:1-20 |
| ☐ March 1 | Numbers 3; 4; Matthew 15:21-39 |
| ☐ March 2 | Numbers 5; 6; Matthew 16 |
| ☐ March 3 | Numbers 7; Matthew 17 |
| ☐ March 4 | Numbers 8; Matthew 18:1-14 |
| ☐ March 5 | Numbers 9; 10; Matthew 18:15-35 |
| ☐ March 6 | Numbers 11; 12; Matthew 19 |
| ☐ March 7 | Numbers 13; Matthew 20 |
| ☐ March 8 | Numbers 14; 15; Matthew 21:1-22 |
| ☐ March 9 | Numbers 16; Matthew 21:23-46 |
| ☐ March 10 | Numbers 17; 18; Matthew 22:1-22 |
| ☐ March 11 | Numbers 19; 20; Matthew 22:23-46 |
| ☐ March 12 | Numbers 21; 22; Matthew 23:1-19 |
| ☐ March 13 | Numbers 23; 24; Matthew 23:20-39 |
| ☐ March 14 | Numbers 25; 26; Matthew 24:1-26 |
| ☐ March 15 | Numbers 27—29; Matthew 24:27-51 |
| ☐ March 16 | Numbers 30; 31; Matthew 25:1-30 |
| ☐ March 17 | Numbers 32; Matthew 25:31-46 |
| ☐ March 18 | Numbers 33; 34; Matthew 26:1-29 |
| ☐ March 19 | Numbers 35; 36; Matthew 26:30-56 |
| ☐ March 20 | Deuteronomy 1—3; Matthew 26:57-75 |
| ☐ March 21 | Deuteronomy 4—6; Matthew 27:1-44 |
| ☐ March 22 | Deuteronomy 7—9; Matthew 27:45—28:20 |
| ☐ March 23 | Deuteronomy 10; 11; Mark 1:1-20 |
| ☐ March 24 | Deuteronomy 12; 13; Mark 1:21-45 |
| ☐ March 25 | Deuteronomy 14; 15; Mark 2 |
| ☐ March 26 | Deuteronomy 16—18; Mark 3 |
| ☐ March 27 | Deuteronomy 19; 20; Mark 4:1-20 |
| ☐ March 28 | Deuteronomy 21; 22; Mark 4:21-41 |
| ☐ March 29 | Deuteronomy 23; 24; Mark 5:1-20 |
| ☐ March 30 | Deuteronomy 25; 26; Mark 5:21-43 |
| ☐ March 31 | Deuteronomy 27; Mark 6:1-29 |

Monday, February 27

The Ignorance of Israel

Isaiah 1:1-9

***“The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib:
but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider,”* Isaiah 1:3.**

The nation of Israel was divided. The Southern Kingdom was known as Judah, and the Northern Kingdom kept the name Israel. The Northern Kingdom was paying the consequences for turning away from God, and the Southern Kingdom was headed down the same path. The prophet Isaiah was sent to warn both kingdoms of the dangers that come to a nation that forsakes the Lord.

In today’s passage Isaiah writes, “But Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.” Isaiah points out that even beasts know their masters and consider their masters’ care, but the people of Israel had forsaken this knowledge. They were continuing in the sin that would separate them from God’s protection. When they isolated themselves, they became vulnerable to invading nations and, eventually, fell captive. Without God’s protection there was no way they could defeat their enemies.

When we isolate ourselves from God, we are in danger of falling captive to sin. This causes us to become vulnerable to the advances of the enemy. We need God’s protection to keep us from being defeated by temptation. When we separate ourselves from God, the only thing to do is to turn back to Him. We come to Him for forgiveness and obey His instructions for our lives. When we turn to God with a repentant heart, He restores us. He will not abandon us when we choose to turn back to Him. If you are far from God, turn back to Him and be restored.

JUST A THOUGHT

Don’t be ignorant as the nation of Israel was. If you are far from God, turn back to Him in repentance and be restored.

Nathan Rogers

The Purifying Vengeance of God

Isaiah 1:22-31

***“And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin: and I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city,”* Isaiah 1:25, 26.**

Precious metals are purged in a smelting pot. Intense heat is applied until it is melted into a liquid. The imperfections then rise to the top and are skimmed off until the molten liquid is pure. The goal is for the metal worker to purge the metal until he can see his own image in the molten liquid.

In today’s passage God says, “I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross.” God is using the metal-working process to warn the people of Israel that He intends to purge them of their imperfections. The fire that He intends to do this with will be the great trials and tribulations that they will experience. He warns them that this is coming as a result of their turning away, but God’s ultimate goal is not to punish or get revenge. God’s goal is that after this time of refining that they “shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city” (verse 26). God is allowing them to go through this purging so that they will become pure once again.

Are there imperfections in your life? Allowing God to smelt away your imperfections is not an easy task. The longer you go without submitting to Him, the more difficult it will be. Surrender to God and allow Him to remove any impurities. Let Him work out the sin in your life until He can look and see His own reflection in you.

JUST A THOUGHT

Submit to God and allow Him
to remove any imperfections in your life.

Nathan Rogers

Wednesday, March 1

Walking in the Statutes of the Heathen

2 Kings 17:1-23

“For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, and walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made,” 2 Kings 17:7, 8.

It’s a good thing that God didn’t ask me to invent religion. I can guarantee if I were the creator of religion, it would be all about me. Everything would be driven by selfishness. All would be pointed toward my interests. You can rest assured that my personal issues would never qualify as sin. If you were the creator of your own religion, it would probably look a lot like mine. It probably wouldn’t look anything like the biblical, religious standard.

In today’s passage when it says that the people of Israel “walked in the statutes of the heathen,” this is exactly what it is talking about. The Israelites were following the practices of pagan people. Their religious actions were not those handed down from the true God. Rather, they were the practices of those who had made up their own religions. They were both sinful and selfish. By practicing this false religion, the Word tells us “Israel had sinned against the LORD their God” (verse 7).

The people of Israel were learning the hard way that when the people of God turn their backs on the Lord, there are serious consequences. Following the true God is not always easy. It doesn’t always please our selfish desires, but consider the alternative. The consequences of turning from God are much greater than any self-sacrifice we can make.

JUST A THOUGHT

There are consequences to walking
“in the statutes of the heathen” (verse 8).

Nathan Rogers

The Mixture of Religions That Became Samaria

2 Kings 17:24-41

“And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods. But the LORD your God ye shall fear; and he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies,” 2 Kings 17:38, 39.

The king of Assyria had a plan after conquering Samaria. If he could move some of the Israelites out and replace them with foreigners, he could prevent the people of Israel from organizing a rebellion. Even though they practiced some forms of worship toward the Lord, they continued worshipping their pagan gods. This resulted in God’s people turning toward the worship of pagan gods and rituals. Because the different nations and races began to intermarry, this created a mixed-race/mixed-religion people known as Samaritans. The Jews detested Samaritans. Even in the time of Jesus we see that there was still a deep hatred of the Jews toward Samaritans. Jesus Christ broke down these barriers with the gospel. He revealed that the good news unites all people no matter their race or religious background.

In verse 38 God says, “The covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods.” Just as God made a covenant with the people of Israel, He has made a new covenant with believers today. Because of the gospel we do not forget the Lord. Because of the gospel we do not fear other gods. As the Israelites in Samaria, we are bombarded with false gods and false religions, but we cannot allow them to turn us toward false worship. Like the Israelites, there are catastrophic consequences for a nation that turns from God.

JUST A THOUGHT

The Israelites stand as an example that there are consequences for the nation that allows the worship of false gods to affect their society.

Nathan Rogers

Friday, March 3

What Does the Lord Require?

Micah 6:6-8

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” Micah 6:8.

It’s easy to get caught up in the idea that we could somehow please God with some type of religious act. We look at our lives and see that we don’t quite measure up to God’s standard. We feel as if we have to do something to appease God. So, we return to religious practice. Simple things—praying, reading the Bible and attending church—become religious rituals instead of acts of worship. Even with the best intentions, these actions are empty without the right motivation.

This is exactly what we see happening in today’s passage. The people of Israel were made aware that their actions were displeasing to God. They responded by doing a lot of religious acts in hopes that God would be pleased, but we see in verse 8 that God wanted something greater. God didn’t want them to do more sacrifices. No, he wanted them to “do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.” God didn’t want religious action. He wanted life transformation.

God desires the same from you and me. Sure, the things mentioned earlier like prayer, Bible reading and church attendance are of the utmost importance, but we cannot do these things as a religious act to appease our God. These should be the fruits of a transformed life. God wants us to do what is right, love mercy and walk humbly by His side. He requires the actions that come from the overflow of a transformed life.

JUST A THOUGHT

God requires a just, merciful and humble life that flows from our gospel transformation.

Nathan Rogers

The Long Shadows of Old Sins

1 Kings 11:4-8

“And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as *did* David his father,” 1 Kings 11:6.

As a father I am deeply concerned with whom my children choose as their friends. I know that their relationships directly impact their decision making. I want them to have strong Christian friendships where there will not be a great deal of pressure to compromise their faith. I know they need people around them who spur them on to good works. They do not need people to create more temptation to sin. The company they keep will either cast a long shadow of sin or a bright light of righteousness.

In today’s reading we see King Solomon struggling with the pressure of pleasing his pagan wives. He allowed those with whom he was in a relationship to pull him away from the true God and influence him toward the worship of false gods. We read, “Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD” and he “went not fully after the LORD” (verse 6). Because of the pressures coming from his foreign wives, Solomon went from tolerating their false religions to building shrines for their false gods. We learned later in this passage (verse 9) that the Lord was angry with Solomon, and He warned Solomon against this practice. The long shadow of sin pressured Solomon to forsake God and listen to his sinful wives.

It is important that we surround ourselves with godly people. When we enter into relationships with people who reject God, we will feel the pressure to do the same. Before long, like Solomon, we may find ourselves compromising our faith.

JUST A THOUGHT

Surrounding ourselves with ungodly people can create a dangerous temptation in our lives.

Nathan Rogers

Sunday, March 5

The Road to Restoration

2 Chronicles 7:12-14

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land,” 2 Chronicles 7:14.

I remember as a child hearing my pastor preach on repentance. He would preach with passion shouting from the pulpit for sinners to repent. He would call for people to turn from evil and come to God, and I would see people coming forward during the invitation and kneeling at the altar to pray. I thought this was what repentance was all about. I could simply come forward and ask for forgiveness, and it meant I had repented. However, I learned what the word repent means. In the Bible the word repent means to change one’s mind or to think differently afterwards. I realized that repentance was much more than words. There had to be a change in thinking that resulted in a change of action for true repentance to happen. I could not simply pray at the altar and call that repentance without changing my mind. If I expected God to reward my repentance, it had to be about more than words.

This is exactly what God was telling His people and King Solomon in today’s passage. They are told that there are three things they should do. First, they must “humble themselves.” In other words, they must turn away from their own selfish desires. Next, God tells them to “pray, and seek my face.” In other words, God wants them to establish communication with Him. Last, He tells them to turn from “their wicked ways.” This is true repentance.

JUST A THOUGHT

The road to restoration begins with true repentance.

Nathan Rogers