



Daily Devotionals

Spiritual Blessings

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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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Dr. Robert A. "Sunny" Brock was born April 15, 1941, to an oil field hand dad and child polio victim mother. He was raised by five old country Irish uncles and was first prize winner of the National Interscholastic League Story Telling Contest. He served nine years as a US Air Force chaplain's assistant during the Vietnam War era.

He attended Baylor University, University of Southern California and the University of Hawaii. He received his Master's in education from Sam Houston State University and ThD from Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary. Sunny taught eighth grade earth science and vocational agriculture and also taught women prisoners at Huntsville, TX. He has thirty-eight years of teaching and has tenure at Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary.

Dr. Brock has authored articles for newspapers, religious journals and textbooks—Romans—The Fifth Gospel, Teaching Methods for Bible Teachers, Developmental Psychology, Research and Writing Manual for Master and Doctoral Thesis, Bible Backgrounds, Discipleship and Interpretation of the English Bible, Criterion Press. Book credits include *Salt Lick Vol. I and Vol. II*, Exlibris Press, *Turkey Mountain Boys: My Brother's Keeper*, Tate Publishing, OK.

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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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December Scripture Readings

❑ November 27	Jeremiah 11 — 14; 1 John 2:15-29
❑ November 28	Jeremiah 15 — 18; 1 John 3:1-10
❑ November 29	Jeremiah 19 — 22; 1 John 3:11-24
❑ November 30	Jeremiah 23 — 30; 1 John 4
❑ December 1	Jeremiah 31 — 34; 1 John 5
❑ December 2	Jeremiah 35 — 39; 2 John
❑ December 3	Jeremiah 40 — 45; 3 John
❑ December 4	Jeremiah 46 — 50; Jude
❑ December 5	Jeremiah 51; 52; Revelation 1
❑ December 6	Lamentations; Revelation 2:1-17
❑ December 7	Ezekiel 1 — 6; Revelation 2:18-29
❑ December 8	Ezekiel 7 — 12; Revelation 3
❑ December 9	Ezekiel 13 — 20; Revelation 4
❑ December 10	Ezekiel 21 — 27; Revelation 5
❑ December 11	Ezekiel 28 — 33; Revelation 6
❑ December 12	Ezekiel 34 — 40; Revelation 7
❑ December 13	Ezekiel 41 — 48; Revelation 8
❑ December 14	Daniel 1 — 4; Revelation 9
❑ December 15	Daniel 5 — 8; Revelation 10
❑ December 16	Daniel 9 — 12; Revelation 11
❑ December 17	Hosea 1 — 4; Revelation 12
❑ December 18	Hosea 5 — 8; Revelation 13
❑ December 19	Hosea 9 — 12; Revelation 14
❑ December 20	Hosea 13; 14; Revelation 15
❑ December 21	Joel; Revelation 16
❑ December 22	Amos 1 — 5; Revelation 17
❑ December 23	Amos 6 — 9; Revelation 18:1-12
❑ December 24	Obadiah; Revelation 18:13-24
❑ December 25	Jonah; Revelation 19
❑ December 26	Micah; Revelation 20
❑ December 27	Nahum; Habakkuk
❑ December 28	Zephaniah; Haggai
❑ December 29	Zechariah 1 — 10; Revelation 21:1-12
❑ December 30	Zechariah 11 — 14; Revelation 21:13-27
❑ December 31	Malachi 1 — 4; Revelation 22

Monday, November 27

God Chose Israel

Deuteronomy 14:1, 2

“Ye are the children of the LORD your God: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead. For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth,” Deuteronomy 14:1, 2.

Christianity isn't a religion that focuses on the dead. It is a faith that is rooted in life. The cults that are mentioned in verse 1 of today's readings are cults that require some type of worship of the dead. Their focus on the dead was contrary to God's plan for His people. True worship of God is a worship of life! It is the life we live here on earth to bring glory to a living God and the eternal life we receive when we accept Him that makes worship of God so wonderful.

It is like eagles and vultures. At first glance they seem the same. They are both large majestic birds that are awesome to watch when they catch the thermals in the air. They seem to just glide without ever needing to come down for a rest. The difference though? Vultures glide looking for something dead to feast on. Eagles are looking for something that is living. God calls His people to soar like eagles. They are to focus on life and not to get caught up worshipping death.

Israel was forbidden to participate in the rituals for the dead because it represented pagan worship. The Lord was not going to allow them to give credence to a false god. They were His chosen people. They represented the God of life!

JUST A THOUGHT

The true God of Israel is the
God of life and not a god of death.

Nathan Rogers

God Chose the Levites as Ministers

Deuteronomy 21:5

“And the priests the sons of Levi shall come near; for them the LORD thy God hath chosen to minister unto him, and to bless in the name of the LORD; and by their word shall every controversy and every stroke be *tried*,” Deuteronomy 21:5.

When we hear the word minister we tend to automatically think of a preacher. Minister has become synonymous with a professional church worker. Our minister is our pastor is the thought of many. A church may also have a music minister or a youth minister. Again, the title minister refers to church workers. But this title is not quite what is meant in today’s passage.

Verse 5 reads of the “sons of Levi” and “for them the LORD thy God hath chosen to minister unto him.” The term “minister” in this context meant the Levitical priests served as the final judicial authority in Israel. Israel didn’t function like the democracy we know today. Its society functioned according to a theocratic system. It was a theocracy. The people saw God and God’s decrees as the ultimate civil authority. This means that these priests had ultimate authority both spiritually and politically.

Israel needed clarity when it came to solving complex problems like the one here in chapter 21. They sought God’s wisdom and He gave them a solution. God’s plan was that the Levitical priests would serve as the ministers to the people of Israel. They would govern and lead according to God’s will. God chose this plan for His people. The Levitical priests were chosen by God to carry out this specific ministry.

JUST A THOUGHT

The Levitical ministers were God’s chosen people to serve as His judicial authority in Israel.

Nathan Rogers

God Chose Men To Carry the Ark

1 Chronicles 15:1, 2

“And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent. Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever,” 1 Chronicles 15:1, 2.

Deuteronomy 12 states there is a place where God’s people would come to worship Him. This was to be the place where the ark of the covenant would rest. David knew this and desired to bring the ark of the covenant to its permanent resting place. In today’s passage we see that David “prepared a place for the ark of God” (1 Chronicles 15:1). For three months David stored the ark of the covenant with Obed-Edom until the place was ready. Once the place was ready, David knew he had to follow the guidelines laid out in Scripture for moving the ark of the covenant. Deuteronomy 10:8 reads, “At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day.” There is a clear directive from God here that the Levites were the chosen ones of God tasked with moving the ark of the covenant. David knew this and made sure the ark of the covenant was handled properly. A man named Uzziah had already lost his life when the ark of the covenant was moved from Kirjath-jearim because it was not handled properly. King David knew that God had a specific plan for handling the ark of the covenant and He had chosen a specific people to do the work.

JUST A THOUGHT

God’s plan was that the priestly Levitical tribe would be tasked with the care and handling of the ark of the covenant.

Nathan Rogers

God Chose Isaiah To Be a Prophet

Isaiah 6:1-7

“Then said I, Woe is me! for I *am* undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: and he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged,” Isaiah 6:5-7.

Isaiah had a difficult task. He was chosen by God to be a messenger for God’s people. He had to confront the people with the truth that they had disobeyed God, and God was about to bring consequences because of their disobedience. To prepare Isaiah for the task, God brought him into the throne room of Heaven through a vision. There, Isaiah saw God “high and lifted up” in all of His glory (Isaiah 6:1). God was revealing to Isaiah who He was. He was showing Isaiah something about His splendor and power. But He also wanted to show Isaiah something about himself.

In the sight of God, Isaiah realized his own inadequacy. He saw his sinful nature and began repenting before the throne of God. Isaiah said, “I am undone” and “I am a man of unclean lips” (verse 5). It was then that Isaiah realized that he fell short of God’s holy standards that he acted. Then God uses the angels and a burning coal to cleanse Isaiah from his sin. God forgives Isaiah so that he is not hindered from the task at hand. Forgiveness is available to the one that calls on God. God will provide the cleansing power to those He calls.

JUST A THOUGHT

God will provide whatever is needed to cleanse the ones He has called for the task that He has called them to.

Nathan Rogers

Friday, December 1

God Chose the Ministry of Jesus

Matthew 12:14-21

“That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles trust,” Matthew 12:17-21.

When Jesus made His way into Jerusalem for the last time during His ministry, the people were expecting Him to establish an earthly kingdom. They were right in the fact that Jesus is a King. But He wasn't the type of king they had expected. Jesus didn't have governmental plans. He wasn't pushing a political agenda. There was an expectation that this King Jesus would overthrow the oppressive Roman occupiers of Israel. But Jesus didn't have plans to organize a great military revolution. God chose the ministry of Jesus to be a different type of kingship.

Today's passage reads, “He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets” (Matthew 12:19). Jesus was not attempting to overthrow the current powers or stir up a coup d'état. This passage of Scripture (verses 18-21) was quoted from the prophecy of Isaiah 42. Here, we see Jesus as a meek king who would bring justice to the nations through the extending of mercy and grace. This is the ministry that God chose for Jesus. His is not a kingdom of contention and strife, but rather a kingdom of love.

JUST A THOUGHT

God chose the ministry of Jesus
to be one of grace and mercy.

Nathan Rogers