

October 20, 2020

## Rest from Your Labor

Shalom,

As I was getting ready to write this week's email, after a time of praying in the spirit, **I heard the Spirit of God say, "Tell my people that I want them to enter my rest."**

This week's scripture portion is called **Noach**, or **Noah**, and is found in **Genesis 6:9—11:32**.

The name given Noach, in the Hebrew language means "**Rest**" or "**Comfort**." Without **the anointing that the Word of God spoken to Noah produced in him**, there would have been no way for him to complete the enormous task of building the ark.

Genesis 6:13-16 (CJB) *God said to Noah, "The end of all living beings has come before Me, for because of them the earth is filled with violence. I will destroy them along with the earth. **Make yourself an ark** of gofer-wood; you are to make the ark with rooms and cover it with pitch both outside and inside. Here is how you are to build it: **the length of the ark is to be 450 feet, its width seventy-five feet and its height forty-five feet.** You are to make an opening for daylight in the ark eighteen inches below its roof. Put a door in its side; and build it with lower, second and third decks."*

**The only way to know rest in a scriptural sense is through trusting**, which is God's way to enter His shalom. Noah lived in an especially wicked time spoken about by Jesus as corresponding to the present evil age.

Matthew 24:37-39 (ESV) ***For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.** For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*

Luke 21:25 (ESV) *And **there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ...***

Psalms 4:4-8 (ESV) ***Be angry, and do not sin;** ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. Selah. Offer right sacrifices, and **put your trust in the Lord.** There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!" You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. **In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.***

Psalms 91:1 (ESV) *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*

Noah did not respond with anger against the people of his day. Instead, he heard from God and, through trusting what he heard, he received **supernatural ability to carry out the plan of YHWH**; and in that trust, **he was enveloped by the Spirit of God and empowered to the extent that he, in all the work he did, had wonderful rest in the shalom of God.** Even when the storm clouds gathered, he continued to rest in the assurance of the Word of God.

Philippians 4:6-7 (CJB) *Don't worry about anything; on the contrary, make your requests known to God by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving. Then God's shalom, passing all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with the Messiah Yeshua.*

Matthew 11:28-30 (TLV) *Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and "you will find rest for your souls." For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*

**Do not be confused by that which is happening around us, and do not think that God's rest is the absence of action, or effort; it is, rather, receiving God-given direction and power to expend effort effectively.** Rest, in Scripture, is maintaining a highly active life, but by the direction of the Word of God in the power of His Spirit. **Rest is ceasing from our own natural efforts**, or soulish actions, to being led and equipped by God's Holy Spirit in our human spirits through trusting, and thereby, being utilized to bring about the will of God.

Like Noah, who heard God's Word and proceeded to obey, not by His own power, but on the basis of God's will revealed to him, each of us may be assured that as we obey Him in faith, we will be anointed to walk forward into His promised blessing at the perfect time.

Living in these last of the last days cannot be successfully carried out in our own natural power. We can only get things accomplished by relying (trusting) on the Living God Who lives within our spirits, and He is the One calling us to enter into His shalom by believing and taking our appointed place in His rest.

Fixing my mind on Jesus,  
Terry