

October 4, 2021

Resting While Trusting

Shalom,

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.

*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." (Genesis 6:13-16 CJB)*

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. Indeed, the time in which Noah lived represented a time in which the cup of iniquity had become full, a time when those who refused to acknowledge the goodness and grace of God placed themselves beyond the ability to repent. Notice the similarity and severity of the rebellion seen in the common thinking and actions of so many today.

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, (Romans 1:22 ESV)

...because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever! Amen. (Romans 1:25 ESV)

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. (Romans 1:28 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. (Matthew 24:37-39 ESV)*

Noah did not respond with anger against the people of his day but was called "a preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5). 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, for 120 years, 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.

***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.** (Philippians 4:6-7 CJB)*

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. (Matthew 11:28-30 TLV)

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 but, not only can we survive these times, we are destined to prosper in them as only true believers can. We will get things accomplished by relying (trusting) on the Living God Who lives within our spirits, and He is the One calling us to **enter His shalom by believing and taking our appointed place in His rest, doing the work of the ministry in these last days, calling to all who will hear and be saved as we boldly proclaim the good news with signs and wonders following.**

Knowing His love, we rest,
Terry

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