

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

KNOW GOD, KNOW PEACE; NO GOD, NO PEACE

Hebrews 4:3, 9-11 “Now we who have believed enter that rest . . . There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from His. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.”

“There is no peace for the wicked.” (Isaiah 48:22) Isaiah spoke these words to Israel during the time of their captivity in Babylon. Earlier, Isaiah had said to them, “This is what the LORD says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. If only you had paid attention to My commands, your peace would have been like a river, your well-being like the waves of the sea.” (Isaiah 48:17-28) Unfortunately, Isaiah had to say to these people, “You have neither heard nor understood; from of old your ears have not been open. Well do I know how treacherous you are; you were called a rebel from birth.” (Isaiah 48:8)

Dr. R. Reed Lessing, in his commentary on Isaiah comments, “it is in Yahweh’s heart to keep calling people out of darkness into His marvelous light. (see 1 Peter 2:9) He called Abram and Sarai to get out of Haran, the center of moon worship. He urged Lot and his family to get out of Sodom and Gomorrah, because they were the center of sexual perversion. Through Moses, He called Israel to get out of Egypt because it was the epicenter of suffering and slavery.”

Here in 2024 God calls you out of this wicked, evil world. His Son Jesus begs you to, “Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28) God sent Jesus into the world to rescue you, redeem you, to extricate you from the wreckage brought about by your sin. He has rescued and preserved your life. Your rescue required Jesus to shed His blood on Calvary’s cross. His shed blood fully and eternally frees you from your sins and the eternal death you deserve because of them. (Revelation 1:5)

Entering into God’s rest provides you with an eternal rest that will never end. Know God through His Son Jesus means you know peace. He says to you, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27)

Prayer: Grant me the peace, dear Jesus, you promise in John 14:27. Amen.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, Stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus and I drank Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light.
Look unto Me; thy morn shall rise And all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav'ling days are done.
(LSB 699)