

Lesson 13 – Wednesday: Waiting In God’s Sabbath Rest

Testimonies for the Church V.6, p.362.3 – *We do not obtain a hundredth part of the blessing we should obtain from assembling together to worship God. Our perceptive faculties need sharpening. Fellowship with one another should make us glad. With such a hope as we have, why are not our hearts all aglow with the love of God?*

Psalm 92 is a psalm to enjoy slowly: “A Song for the Sabbath Day”

- Because on Sabbath, you have put away your business, worries, mail, studies, chores, entertainment
 - Take your time with the Sabbath Psalm
- 1.** *It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;*
 - It is GOOD: privilege / join in what angels do / brings joy (so much more than complaining)
 - My schedule is cleared: Time to see the goodness of God
 - Day of Rest – NOT to do NOTHING, BUT TO do the work of the Sabbath – spotlight on the LORD
 - The business of the Sabbath is clear from the start: Praise!
 - 2.** ²*To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night,*
 - So fully convinced of God’s character
 - Can’t help but speak about you – I can’t say enough about you – It just comes out of me
 - I start in the morning – I only stop because I fall asleep
 - I don’t have time to complain about the pastor / the music / the disunity in the church
 - I’m praising the LORD!
 - 3.** ³*On an instrument of ten strings, on the lute, and on the harp, with harmonious sound.*
 - The Sabbath is a day for MUSICIANS – uniting – a Symphony of Praise
 - We put all differences aside to praise God.
 - Beautiful, peaceful music from the heart that matches the character of God
 - 4.** ⁴*For You, LORD, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands.*
 - What is God’s work that makes me glad?
 - Your work is REMOVING sin from my life, revealing YOUR character so that I can see My true character – Thank You!
 - Sabbath strengthens our FAITH that “He who has begun a good work in me will bring it to completion”
 - 5.** ⁵*O LORD, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep.*
 - Sabbath gives me unrushed time to come back to Your Word – and there is always something MORE / Deeper
 - Have you experienced this?
 - Just the tiniest glimpse of Your action in the world and Your wisdom – more than I can comprehend / I stand in awe
 - Words don’t do justice to You / Sermons are wonderful, but they only *cast light* on the thoughts of God
 - 6.** ⁶*A senseless man does not know, nor does a fool understand this.*
 - Not everyone understands God – I won’t let them rob me of focusing on God’s character by distracting me.
 - They don’t know you as I do - - - (YET!) / They don’t KNOW the Sabbath as I know it.
 - They *NEED* to know you! BECAUSE ...
 - 7.** ⁷*When the wicked spring up like grass, and when all the workers of iniquity flourish, it is that they may be destroyed forever.*
 - The Sabbath plunges us into the BIG PICTURE - EACH hectic WEEK concludes with Peace!
 - Sin and death *looks like* it will sweep the globe
 - But God is ALLOWING the true nature of sin to be seen by ALL – *so that* none will question His righteousness when He destroys sin FOREVER!
 - We won’t despair when we see evil strengthening, We wait on the Lord — BECAUSE ...
 - 8.** ⁸*But You, LORD, are on high forevermore.*
 - The Lord reigns AND WILL REIGN
 - He is not wrestling for control of the universe in an uncertain fight

- EVEN WHEN ... our questions are unanswered / ... our sight is too weak to see Him seated on the throne.
 - On Sabbath, WE STOP trying to reign, and we REST in you who are ON - HIGH - FOREVERMORE!
- 9.** ⁹ *For behold, Your enemies, O LORD, for behold, Your enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.*
- We claim by faith, AGAIN, the certain outcome of the Great Controversy.
 - We're not praying for our physical prosperity, but for Your Victory over sin
 - Every Sabbath, we Claim your victory over sin BY FAITH.
 - The enemies of God - ARE contrary to God / Fight against God / Have Hardened Their Hearts / Go out of their way in DARING to humiliate God / ARE in Rebellion, spreading their Rebellion
 - NO enemy of God will ever again destroy the perfection of Heaven OR the Earth made new.
- 10.** ¹⁰ *But my horn You have exalted like a wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil.*
- I have such confidence in God's Friendship – I KNOW He will rescue me and give me victory over sin.
 - AND, He will give me a task in His kingdom – ANOINTED for service
 - With "Fresh Oil" – Oil Made FOR THIS ... FOR ME.
 - Not a "Generic" invitation or mission generated for anyone who asks – like an Automated Email Reply
 - God anoints me with "Fresh Oil" – Made FRESH FOR ME
 - He knows ME PERSONALLY – And He Directs MY paths – DAY BY DAY!
- 11.** ¹¹ *My eye also has seen my desire on my enemies; my ears hear my desire on the wicked who rise up against me.*
- I CHEER when I see BY FAITH that God's Righteousness is victorious
 - What is my desire on my enemies / my desire on the wicked?
 - I desire what God desires. / His desire has become mine. / They are my family.
 - Their Repentance / Their sin washed away / Their lives renewed
 - That they may put their faith in Jesus – and their faith will be accounted as Righteousness!
- 12.** ¹² *The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.*
- Sabbath is a great time for walking in nature – as we do, God turns our attention to the trees and this promise.
 - Picture these trees – both green throughout the year / a DEEP water supply to resist drought
 - The cedar in the high mountains or the palm in the arid desert SHOW – living water is available here
 - They weather the storms / strong and beautiful
- 13.** ¹³ *Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.*
- I don't want to drift in and out of the house of the LORD – I want to be PLANTED there.
 - ROOTED to God's Character / ANCHORED to God's Truth / FASTENED in God's hand
 - Permanently established in God's house – that's where the Altar is
 - That's where the Law of God is
 - The picture of the Righteous as trees is all over the Psalms, starting with #1
- 14.** ¹⁴ *They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing,*
- An old tree may stop bearing fruit. But Sabbath to Sabbath KEEPS us connected to the life-giver
 - He produces the fruit in us.
 - Sanctification is a CONTINUALLY upward journey
 - IF I let Him, He promises that I will continue to grow.
- 15.** ¹⁵ *To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.*
- He is Upright – He Keeps His Promises!
 - I will not talk of any righteousness in me, any firmness of principle in me
 - I will talk of Him.
 - He is my Rock – NOT a little rock, a massive rock
 - You walk back down this path NEXT Sabbath – This rock is still here. Unlike homes or businesses or roads that come and go, the Rock of my salvation is Eternal.