

Eternal Sabbath

*There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.
– Hebrews 4:9 –*

When our God created the universe, He chose to rest on the seventh day. But He that neither slumbers nor sleeps is in no need of respite. He neither tires nor grows weary. He obviously was establishing a precedent for the crown jewel of His handiwork, mankind. Recurring periodic cessation from labor and toil is necessary to a healthy human life. He further enconced this necessitous paradigm into the fabric of His chosen nation, Israel. In the Law of God, Israel was prescribed a weekly Sabbath Day, periodic sabbath rests, as well as recurring periods of celebratory release such as Jubilee. These are not just earth-side accommodations, but signposts for the believer, whether Jew or Gentile, of something so much better. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

Human existence was never intended to be difficult. Our father Adam traded occupation for labor and fulfillment for toil. The grind of life under the sun is arduous. We move from one trial to the next, and nothing is ever easy. Our way is strewn with snares, and our path with obstacles. As quickly as we find a moment's peace, life seems to present us with some new struggle. The ebb and flow of the troublesome wave of human pilgrimage tends to wear us down. We fight and claw and reach and pine, only to realize that there is more to be done. Ultimately, the honest traveler begins to realize that security on planet earth is wholly elusive. This is all meant to turn our expectancy from life here, to the one to come. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

Our Lord said, "Come unto me, all ye that are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Salvation secures the earnest of the purchased possession and vouchsafes it in the innermost chambers of the converted soul. No matter the velocity, magnitude, variety, or multiples of any present distress, the heart remains at perfect peace, like Jesus asleep in the tempest tossed boat. The Spirit of Peace within the breast steadies the heart. Yet while He reminds us we are safe, we nonetheless realize that we are not home yet. When we stop long enough to meditate, we yearn to be clothed upon, and for death to be swallowed up of life. We intrinsically know that this momentary peace that passes understanding is merely a down payment of something so much better and enduring – an everlasting rest, an eternal Sabbath, where we shall forever behold the face of our Lord and find ourselves securely fastened in His omnipotent presence. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

Today is one day closer to that everlasting rest, burdened friend. It shall not be very long before the trials of this life are the thing of a vanquished and distant past, and the eternal now will be one of continual peace and rest. Until then, be resolved to let your heart go on singing.

-- D. Murcek