

Delightful Discoveries in Prayer

Prayer Lessons in Creation

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Name: _____

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Lesson 07: Creation's Third Day

Genesis 1:9: "And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good."

In Genesis 1:9 to 13, we have the creative word of Christ again. When He speaks, the thing exists in His word, whether it is what He speaks on the first day, second day, or third day of creation.

"Who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddling-band for it, and brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, and said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?" Job 38:8 to 11.

Here we see proof of God's creative power controlling the sea. God speaks, and the waters move where He speaks. He makes a decree, and they obey.

in Jeremiah 5:22, God says, He "placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it."

THIRD DAY PROMISES

"God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place.... and it was so,"

"Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them." Psalm 89:9.

Isn't this exactly what Jesus did that night in the tempest on Galilee, when the disciples' ship was about to sink? It is recorded, in Mark 4, verses 35 to 41. A part of the account goes like this: "And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

Our God, our Creator can do, and still does, what He did at creation. He controls the angry sea. He tells it what to do. It must obey.

The same God who said, "Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place," also said, "Peace, be still" to old Galilee, and put it in its place. The same word of Christ that saved the disciples can save our souls, too. "And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." 1 Peter 1:25.

There is a spiritual application to this "Peace, be still" story of Galilee. The Bible says God "will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints." Psalm 85:8. It would appear that angry waters stand for trouble which threatens God's people, just as the Sea of Galilee did the disciples. If Jesus speaks peace to our troubled hearts, cannot we believe and receive peace, just as the boisterous waves did?

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When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee." Isaiah 43:2. God is saying that since He controls the physical waters of the sea, He also can control the waters of sorrow, of trouble, when we feel helpless. We can take it as a special, personal message from the God of the third day of creation.

"Yes, there's One, only One,
The blessed, blessed Jesus, He's the One;
When afflictions press the soul,
When waves of trouble roll,
And you need a friend to help you, He's the One."

Here is another encouraging promise found in Proverbs 21:1, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."

God, who was great enough to gather together the waters on the third day of creation, who made a path for the children of Israel through the Red Sea, and the river Jordan; who saved His disciples in the tornado-like storm on Galilee, can turn the mind of someone, in connection with the advancement of His work.

Mr. Spafford was senior partner in an influential Chicago law firm. He was anticipating a trip to Europe with his family. His heart was set on taking his wife around to the many interesting places he had visited a few years previous when he made the tour alone. All arrangements for the trip had been made. They were to sail on the luxurious French liner, the *Ville du Havre*, which was at that time the renowned pleasure ship of the seas.

A change in his business plans made it impossible for Mr. Spafford to travel with his family at the time arranged. So he accompanied them to New York, and saw them off.

The evening of November 21, 1873 found them on an unusually calm ocean. The night was moonless, but the air was clear, and Mrs. Spafford and a friend enjoyed a stroll on the ship's deck.

Suddenly, in the wee hours of the morning--long before the break of day--there were two terrific claps, like thunder. The ship stood still. And it was soon discovered that they had been plowed into by another vessel.

Pandemonium reigned. But Mrs. Spafford and the children were calm. Her four little daughters were torn from her, and made their graves in the depths of the sea. Mrs. Spafford, herself, after being adrift in the ship's wreckage for about an hour, was rescued, and taken, with the other survivors, to Wales. From there she sent a cable to her husband, of only two words--"Saved alone!"

One can easily imagine the horror that at first struck the heart of Mr. Spafford. Then the peace which Christ alone can give, flooded his breast. He found comfort in the thought that true Christianity can keep one peaceful in life's darkest hours.

Later, as Mr. Spafford was crossing the Atlantic to join his wife in France, when they came near the site of the terrible tragedy, the captain of the ship took him aside and showed him the approximate spot where his four darling little girls had lost their lives. This was like the "valley of the shadow of death" to him. But the Lord bore him up, and his faith remained unshaken.

Right there, near that fateful spot, he penned the words that have brought assurance and peace to many troubled hearts:

"When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;

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Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

"Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

"And, Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend;
"Even so, it is well with my soul."

Mr. Spafford remarked that religion is of no value unless it has a power to keep one in the love and trust of his Maker in life's darkest hour.

And later, Mrs. Spafford declared after losing still another child to the demon of death, "I will repeat, 'God loves me,' until I believe it." And she did.

Such is the power of the peace which our Lord brings to hearts that are steadfastly set on Him. "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." Isaiah 48:18

"True Faith rests on the promises contained in the word of God." Early Writings, p. 72.

Review Questions

Please be free to study the texts of Scripture following the questions. Then with pencil, check a mark against "true, or "false." After looking over the correct answers, you may wish to erase any incorrect checks and redo the questions and answers.

1. Water has become a symbol of peace when God's Word is obeyed. True _____. False _____. Isa. 48:18.
2. Water symbolizes restlessness when God is not in control. True _____. False _____. Isa. 57:20.
3. Waves of water symbolize temptation. True _____. False _____. Isa. 59:19.
4. Christ found it of no value to use "it is written" when tempted by the devil. True _____. False _____. Matt. 4: 1-11.
5. By the words of His lips, we are kept from the paths of the destroyer. True _____. False _____. Ps. 17:4.
6. Claiming Bible promises in simple faith will do nothing to help us become partakers of the divine nature. True _____. False _____. 2 Peter 1:4.

Answers found on answer sheet.