

Delightful Discoveries in Prayer

Prayer Lessons in Creation

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Lesson 12: Creation's Crowning Jewel

Genesis 2:1 to 3: "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."

FOURTH COMMANDMENT.

Exodus 20:8-11; Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

If the gospel is in the other six days of creation, it must be in the seventh day, also. It commemorates the work of creation by God in Christ and uses such words as "blessed," "sanctified," "hallowed."

Let's claim a promise for guidance and see what we can discover. "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." Psalm 32:8

BIBLE PROMISES CONNECTED WITH SEVENTH DAY

Turn to the 4th chapter of the book of Hebrews, verse 1. "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16. This chapter unites claiming promises with prayer.

In verse 4 we see: "For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works." Here is the seventh day is connected with claiming Bible promises.

In the 5th verse are the words: "And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest."

And in verse 12: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful." "The powerful word of God," the "gospel," and "prayer".

In the second verse, it is speaking about those people who came out of Egypt with Moses. "For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them." So the people in the days of Moses, when the Ten Commandments were given from Mt. Sinai, had the gospel preached to them.

The verse continues: "But the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." In creative prayer, we learn we need to mix faith with God's promises.

Now the 3rd verse says: "For we which have believed do enter into rest." So here it makes it plain that there is no rest without faith in His promise.

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Notice the sentence in verse 4: "For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works." No question that the seventh day is related to claiming Bible promises.

Verses 9 and 10 shed light on this whole thing. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his."

One thing is clear; God associated the gospel, the Bible promises, faith, and the seventh day all together. Then He climaxes it by saying, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace." Verse 16.

Here is a summary of what we see in Hebrews 4:

Verse 1 - "Promise."

Verse 2 - "Gospel."

Verse 3 - "Rest."

Verse 4 - "Seventh day."

Verse 5 - "Rest."

Verse 6 - "Unbelief."

Verse 7 - "Hear his voice."

Verse 8 - "Rest."

Verse 9 - "There remaineth ... a rest to the people of God."

Verse 10 - "Rest" versus "own works."

Verse 11 - "Rest."

Verse 12 - "Word of God is quick, and powerful."

Verse 13 - "Creature."

Verse 14 - "Jesus the Son of God."

Verse 15 - "Our infirmities."

Verse 16 - "Come boldly unto the throne of grace."

Putting them together, God connects claiming promises with the gospel and the seventh day and His work at creation.

"Holy Sabbath day of rest,
Of creation's week the best."

Of no day of creation, except the seventh, did God use the words "blessed," "sanctified," "hallowed."

Genesis 2:1 to 3 tells us: "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."

The seventh day, is the crowning day of creation; it is creation's best.

Ezekiel 20:20 says, "And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God."

Jesus said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." John 17:3.

The fourth commandment says, "the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." So it is not Jewish. It was given thousands of years before a Jew was born. Its promises are for all the children of Adam.

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The fourth commandment tells us who the Lord is. None of the other nine commandments tell who the Lord is. They refer to Him as “Lord,” and as “God.” But only the fourth commandment tells us He is the Creator. So we need the fourth commandment to top the whole system of creative prayer.

“We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.” Ephesians 2:10. This is the same text that says: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.” Verses 8 and 9.

Our good works don’t count! It is His good works in us, after He has made us a new creature. Again, we must recognize our creatureliness.

In Ezekiel 20:12 we see: “Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.” Notice the word “sanctify” in Genesis 2:1 to 3, also the word “hallow” in Exodus 20:8 to 11. And now the same God who sanctified the seventh day, promises to sanctify us, or make us holy.

The seventh day is really the true Christian Sabbath, because it was made by Christ, our Creator.

Isaiah 56:2: “Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil.”

Revelation 14:6 to 12 constitutes a very special message to be given to the world just before the coming of our Lord; for verse 14 pictures our Lord coming again. He said that the message of Revelation 14:6 to 12 would be given at a time when even many professed Bible believers would doubt creation. And finally some would go so far as to question the very existence of God.

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Revelation 14:6 and 7

As we notice the words in this Scripture, “everlasting gospel,” connected with “him that made heaven, and earth,” we see that the gospel and the worship of the Creator go together; for it is God who put them together in that Scripture. Part of the words of the fourth commandment and those of Revelation 14:6 and 7 are almost identical. This is God’s last message to the world before Jesus comes again.

Hebrews 3:7-11 “Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)”

We can see that God connects His promises with the seventh day. God bids us cease from our own works and enter into His rest. We are to come boldly to the throne of grace, and obtain mercy, and grace as promised in Hebrews 4:16. Then we can say: “I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him” unto the day of His coming. (See 2 Timothy 1:12.)

Review Questions

1. Was the world made by Satan _____, or by Christ _____? John 1:1-3, 10.
2. On what day did God rest at creation? _____ Gen. 2:2.

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3. What day did He bless? _____ Gen. 2:3.
4. What day did He sanctify at creation? _____ Gen. 2:3.
5. When God commands us to keep the 7th day holy, He says it is because He worked six days and rested on the _____ day. Ex. 20:8-11.
6. Since God is love, His banner over us must be _____. 1 John 4:8; S. of S. 2:4.
7. Does the prophecy of Revelation 14:6, 7 state that the everlasting gospel is connected with the fact that God made the heavens and the earth? Yes _____. No _____.
8. We must cease from our own _____ in order to enter into God's rest. Heb. 4:10.
9. In order to receive the promises of God, we must _____ them with _____. Heb. 4:2.
10. Why does the Lord tell us to worship Him and bow down? Is it because He is unreasonable and demanding? _____ or because He is our Maker? _____. Ps. 95:6.

"As surely as the oak is in the acorn, so surely is God's gift in His promise. If we receive the promise, we have the gift." Education, page 253.

Answers found on answer sheet.