

An Entreaty From the Resting Place

“Arise, O Lord, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength. Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, And let Your saints shout for joy. For Your servant David’s sake, do not turn away the face of our Anointed.” (Psalm 132:8-10).

The pilgrim has heard of the Resting Place. He did not hear of it in the big religious centers, parades and power structures of men and the world. The report came out of a stable in Bethlehem. The Resting Place was not found on display in the big city, but hidden in an obscure, out of the way place of no reputation, a place of retreat and quietness in the inner soul.

Here, the entreaty is made to the Person of the Place. The entire significance of the place is the Person. Where we are gathered, He is among us, in our midst: He is of us and for us. It is Him Who makes the place to be one of rest. He, Himself has finished His work and He is also resting in that.

May He now arise in the power with which He visited us in the outpouring of His Spirit, and bring us fully into that rest. Let us be assured that as surely as He has poured out His Spirit at Pentecost, He, Himself has come to us both corporately and personally. (John 14:18-20, 23) This is His guarantee of our assurance and communion with God.

He has rested and we rest in the fact, the unshakable reality that He has forever put away both our sins and our sinfulness, clothed us with His righteousness, and presented us to Himself without spot or blemish.

When the glory, the weight, of that realization dawns in our understanding the joy and wonder of it all is uncontainable. God forbid that we should quench to Spirit by suppressing its robust expression. May the loud exuberant voices of God’s praises be heard among the saints. It is wicked unbelief to be ashamed of the display of such divine love and devotion. Should the saints keep silence, the very creation itself must cry out. God *will* be praised. That praise ought be heard from redeemed sinners.

A thousand other entreaties may be made to our Lord from the place of rest. We have daily needs of every sort. Spiritual warfare never ceases. The enemy of our souls is ever stirring up men to oppress us. Sin in our members is constantly at war with the Spirit. The urgency of these petitions will drive us to prayer. These and all other prayers will be made from our Resting Place, the common Mercy Seat. And we shall be heard.... not because of any deserving of our own, but for the sake of God’s suffering Servant, the son of David, the Son of God, the God-Man, our Lord Jesus Christ.

- C.M.