

A blessed Monday morning to you ... my dear family and friends. Here is our Monday morning Devotional. I trust it will be a blessing to you as you too meet God this morning.

## I MET GOD IN THE MORNING

A Devotional prepared by Dr. Robert L. Morris

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Often when reading through the Holy Scriptures, golden nuggets of eternal truth sparkle and shine, and we reach out and grab them, think about them, meditate on them, and ask the Lord what they really mean, and how to apply them to life. One of those shiny nuggets caused me to stop reading further, and to capture some of its brilliance. Here it is:

“Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You, O Lord God, have spoken it, and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever.” (2 Samuel 7:29)

The human writer for the Books of Samuel are not known with certainty. In the verse quoted above there is a strong reference to the house of God’s servant. What is declared there is wonderful indeed. But I was stopped ... even captivated by the words “You, O Lord God, have spoken it.” My mind and heart collaborated in thinking about that amazing statement, “God has spoken it!” This is why we refer to the whole of the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, as the Word of God, for He has spoken it.

As I prayed and meditated, I met God that morning. It was a time of focusing on some of the shiny golden nuggets, some sterling promises and magnificent oracles of eternal truth that glisten with the glory of God and His saving relationship with those who are the blood-bought, blood-washed, redeemed-by-Calvary-love people we know as brothers and sisters in Jesus. The dark shadows of the night had retreated into the tucks and folds of the countryside. As I pondered carefully and prayerfully that early morning, I asked God to help me not miss something of His glory as I was mentally roaming across His verdant plains. Its valley floors were covered with carpets of softest green, tacked down with lovely daisies and laughing daffodils. The night birds were filling the air with their morning songs as they left their little homes high on the limbs of the trees. Their songs were accompanied by the melodies and anthems of the nightingales and meadowlarks. Along the wayside, I gasped in wonder as I saw the blush on the bud that was hanging from the limb of the rose, ready to burst into magnificent beauty. I saw the dewdrops of the morning tremble on the virgin white lip of the lily. The great granite of the mountains across the distant prairies rose in majesty, piercing the morning skies. My mind raced back in time to hear King David say “O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth. You have set Your glory above the heavens! ... When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that you are mindful of him ... O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth.”

I wanted to hear more, as I met God in the morning. I remembered that “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.” He led me to the high mountains of eternal truth. There I listened to the voices of the ancient fathers and prophets, servants of Almighty God, as they heard God speak. They took pen in hand and inscribed His blessed words for all time and eternity. Yes, as I met God that morning, I heard them.

I heard Abraham say as he prayed to God, “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

I heard Jacob say to the Angel of the Lord, “I will not let You go unless you bless me.”

I heard Laban say to Jacob, “May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from another.”

I heard Moses say, “Lord, if Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us from here.”

I heard Joseph say to his brothers, “God sent me ... to preserve life, ...to preserve a posterity,” and “to save many people alive.”

I heard Ruth say to Naomi, “Wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.”

I heard Deborah say, "I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel."

I heard Gideon say to the men of Israel, "The Lord shall rule over you."

I heard Samson say in prayer, "O Lord God, remember me, I pray. Strengthen me, I pray."

I heard Hannah say, "My heart rejoices in the Lord."

I heard Samuel say to God, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears."

I heard Elijah say in his plea to God, "Lord, hear me, that the people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

I heard Elisha say, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

I heard Micaiah say, "As the Lord lives, whatever the Lord says to me, that I will speak."

I heard King Hezekiah glorify God in prayer, saying, "O Lord God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone."

I heard Job say one of the greatest statements ever made, "I know that my Redeemer lives."

I heard Asaph say, "Who is so great a God as our God? You are the God who does wonders."

I heard David say, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want," and "This is the day that the Lord has made and I will rejoice and be glad in it."

I heard Solomon say, "Arise and shine for your light has come," and "No weapon formed against you shall prosper," and "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

I heard Jeremiah say, quoting God: "I have plans for you ... plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope," and in worship before God, "Great is Your faithfulness."

I heard Jabez say, "Oh, that you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain."

I heard Mordecai say to Esther, "Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

I heard Queen Esther say in deep commitment: "I will fast ... and I will go ... and if I perish, I perish."

I heard Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego say, "We will not bow down to any image but will serve the Lord."

I heard Ezekiel say, "The Lord said: 'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.'"

I heard Daniel say to King Darius, "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths."

I heard Hosea say, "Come, and let us return to the LORD ... He will heal us."

I heard Amos say, "Seek the Lord and live."

I heard Jonah say, "I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord."

I heard Micah say, "Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

I heard Nahum say, "The Lord is good; a stronghold in the day of trouble."

I heard Habakkuk say, "The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him," and "I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength."

I heard Zephaniah say, "The Lord your God ... the Mighty One will rejoice over you with gladness."

I heard Haggai say, quoting God, "From this day I will bless you."

I heard Zechariah say, "Speak each man the truth to his neighbor."

I heard Malachi say, "'Return to Me, and I will return to you.' Says the LORD of hosts."

I heard Matthew say, "When Jesus saw a great multitude, He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick."

I heard Mark say, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

I heard Luke say, quoting the angel of the Lord: "'There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"

I heard John say, "This is the promise that He has promised us, eternal life."

I heard Peter say, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God ... casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you."

I heard Paul say, "The Lord shall supply all your needs," and "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me."

I heard James say, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

I heard Jude say, "To God our Savior Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

I heard John say at the close of day, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all", and "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Then I heard Jesus say, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." He also said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him, and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Yes, I met God in the morning. My mind also recalled a part of a poem by Bishop Ralph Cushman:

#### THE SECRET

I met God in the morning when the day was at its best,

And His presence came like sunrise, like a glory in my breast.

All day long, His presence lingered, all day long, He stayed with me;

And we sailed in perfect calmness over a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered, other ships were sore distressed,

But the winds that seemed to drive them brought to me peace and rest.

So I think I know the secret, learned from many a troubled way:

You must seek Him in the morning if you want Him through the day.

One of the great "morning" hymns of the Church was written in the German language in 1828, and

translated into English by Edward Caswall in 1854. Join me in singing these magnificent Christ-glorifying lines.

#### WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES

1. When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries;

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair.

May Jesus Christ be praised.

2. Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

3. The night becomes as day when from the heart we say:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

The pow'rs of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

4. Ye nations of mankind, in this your concord find:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

5. In heav'n's eternal bliss the loveliest strain is this:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Let earth, and sea, and sky, from depth to height reply:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

6. Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:

May Jesus Christ be praised.

Be this th'eternal song thro' all the ages long:

May Jesus Christ be praised.