

Be Still

“Learning to See & Hear”

I. SCRIPTURE

“Be still, and know that I am God [ELOHIYM] ...” (Ps. 46:10a; [NKJV]).¹

II. WE LIVE IN A BUSY, SELF-CENTERED WORLD

In the book of Daniel, we are told that “at the time of the end, many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” (Dan. 12:4b). YAHUSHA [Jesus] paints a picture of the signs of the end of our age, as a time where mankind is busy and willful. He says, “**But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were (busy) eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark.**” (Matt. 24:27-38). And we, too, in our busyness, are returning to a situation that is similar to the time before the flood, where YAHUAH [THE LORD] is now telling us, “My Spirit [RUACH] shall not strive [abide] with man (and woman) forever...” (Gen. 6:3) because “the wickedness of man (and woman) [is] great in the earth, and that every intent [thought] of the thoughts of [their] heart[s is] only evil continually [all of the day].” (Gen. 6:5).

So, instead of being still... and listening and trying to understand what YAHUAH [The Lord] is trying to communicate to us, we are a stubborn, self-centered people who are wicked and rebellious (per Gen. 6:5–6), and we refused to repent of our ways. We are rebellious against God [YAHUAH], just like our pre-flood ancestors, and, now like the postdiluvian Nimrod, we, in our words and deeds, are persuading ourselves and others not to acknowledge that our true strength and shelter is in THE LORD [YAHUAH]... but that it is through *our* means that we are happy. Yes! We think that it is through *our own* courage that we procure *our* happiness”², *our* independence, *our* success... rather than in our *humbleness* and *submission* to YAHUAH [God]. We hear the words of the famous tune... we take them all into our hearts and minds, and believe the words to be true. In our pride, we confess of ourselves proudly...

1. Ps. 46:10a; Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is from the *New King James Version*.

2. “Who was Nimrod in the Bible?”, Got Questions: Your Questions; Biblical Answers, Got Questions Ministries, April 26, 2021, Accessed July 17, 2021, <https://www.gotquestions.org/Nimrod-in-the-Bible.html>.

“And now the end is near [and] so I face the final curtain... I’ve lived a life that is full; I’ve traveled each and every highway, and more than this... I did it *my, my way.*”³

“For what is a man, what has he got... if not himself, then he has not. To say the things he truly feels, and not the words of one who kneels. The record shows *I* took the blows... and did it *my way*... saying the things *I* truly feel, and not the words of one who kneels... I did it *my, my way.*”

III. WE ARE BUSY TALKING & DOING; INSTEAD, WE SHOULD BE STILL & LISTENING

Our problem is that in our lives today, *we* are too busy exercising our *active* personality traits of talking and doing, going to and fro... rather than just being still, and exercising our *passive* traits of watching and listening. But in our busyness, ELOHIYM [God] is telling us, “Be still... and know that I am God [ELOHIYM]” (Ps. 46:10a), for “*I am your refuge and strength*” (Ps. 46:1a); for “*I will be exalted among the nations, [and] I will be exalted in the earth!*” (Ps. 46:10b). So,

“Then the LORD [YAHUAH] said to me, ‘Proclaim all these words in the cities ... and in the streets ..., saying: “*Hear the words of [My] covenant and do them (instead).* For I earnestly exhorted [encouraged] your fathers in the day I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, until this [very] day, rising early and exhorting, saying, ‘Obey *My voice!*’ Yet they did not *obey or incline their ear*, but everyone followed [walked in the stubbornness or imagination] [of] the dictates of his [and her own] evil heart...”’” (Jer. 11:6-8a).

God [YAHUAH] help us! God [YAHUAH] forbid that we are so busy, so independent, so full of ourselves, so in tune with the ways of the world around us, that we do not recognize our current condition: that we are following our own desires – the lust of our eyes and the pride of our lives (1 John 2:16), rather than God [ELOHIYM]’s desire for us. God [YAHUAH] forbid that we are a people who are “wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked” (Rev. 3:17) as the earlier church and we do not recognize it. If you and I think that we aren’t really as bad as all that, then we should probably consider God’s “righteous” man Job.

IV. CONSIDER JOB

The Word says of Job, “that [he] was blameless and upright, and one who feared God [ELOHIYM] and shunned [turned away from] evil” (Job 1:1b). And still, even in his

3. “My Way,” Frank Sinatra and Paul Anka, 1969.

“blameless and upright” standing, he was brought down into a state of humility before God [ELOHIYM], and his heartfelt confession before Him was:

“I was a babbling fool before you O ELOHIYM [God]. I was too busy practicing *my* own active personality traits – of talking and doing – rather than truly seeing and hearing *You* O ELOHIYM [God] for Who *You* really are. But O ELOHIYM [God] ‘I have [now] heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You. [And] therefore I (now) abhor [despise] myself, and [I] repent [before you] in dust and ashes.’” (Job 42:5-6).

Today I would ask you how you are before ELOHIYM [God]? How are you thinking and acting compared to Job? Do you think that when Satan, who is also “going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it” (Job 1:7b) ... that YAHUAH [the LORD] is asking Satan, “Hey, have you considered My servant [Rich], that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God [ELOHIYM] and shuns [turns away from] evil?” (Job 1:8). As much as I would hope that that would be the case, I doubt it very much. And so, as I was young and growing up, as our earthly parents do, at first I heard ELOHIYM [God] encouraging me to exercise my active skills: to “walk and talk”. But now, as I’ve grown up and lived life my own way, after hearing today’s message and reading Job’s account, I am finally hearing YAHUAH [the LORD] telling me, “Rich, now it’s time for you to ‘sit down and shut up’ Be still,” He says. “Rich, you’ve been so busy doing things on your own, trying to fit in and be accepted by this world, that you don’t really realize that you are now ‘wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked’ my sight. But now, if you will go along with Me, I want to ‘anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may truly see’ (Rev. 3:18) that I am your ‘refuge and strength, [your] very present help in trouble. Therefore [you] will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst [heart] of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, *though* the mountains shake with its swelling.’ (Ps. 46:1-3). So Rich, please ‘be still, and know that I *am* God [ELOHIYM]; and [that] I [am to be] exalted among the nations, [and] I [am to be] exalted in the earth”. Ps. 43:10) For that is my place and role as your Sovereign God [ELOHIYM], and not your role.”

Brothers and sisters, today may it not be said of you and me what was said of our Torah [law]-breaking ancestors, that “the LORD [YAHUAH] has not given you a heart to perceive [understand or know] and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day [although that He has] led you forty years in the wilderness [and] your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet” (Deut. 29:4-5).

V. EYES THAT SEE & EARS THAT HEAR

Brothers and sisters, despite how good we may think that we are, we are told “that at the name of Jesus [YAHUSHA] every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth” (Phil. 2:10) **“and whoever falls on this stone [YAHUSHA] will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder”** (Matt. 21:44). If Job had to kneel, to bow before God, then so must we.

YAHUSHA [Jesus] still tells you and me today, as He told His disciples back during His time on earth, that **“it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to [others] it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore, I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.’”** (Matt. 13:11b-15).

“But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.” (Matt. 13:16-17).

VI. FINAL APPEAL – LOSING ALL TO GAIN ALL

Brothers and sisters, **“Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it”** (Matt. 10:39; [N/V]). **“Therefore, do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”** (Matt. 6:31-33).

No brothers and sisters, let’s bow our hearts and heads together as we pray: “Now to Him who is able to keep [us] from stumbling, and to present [us] faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God [YAH] our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. (Jude 1:24-25). And now dear YAHUSHA [Jesus], in whose name we pray, concerning the tempests that we face in our lives each day today and going forward, may we hear and experience Your calming words as You have said before: “Peace! Be still!”? Amen.