

SINGLE ALLIANCE THE LORD'S REST

I. Introduction

A. The Christmas season is upon us. This is a time of hurry, worry, and fatigue for many! However, the reason for the season is Jesus Christ and His coming to Earth. Jesus came as a baby but He did so for one reason: to die for us and be our redeemer.

B. He came to give us peace and rest.

C. Jesus always had peace in His heart wherever He was but He did not always have a place to rest His head or have rest during His Earthly life and ministry. He could not rest until He finished what He came to do.

D. Let's look at how and when Jesus found rest.

II. No rest for His head

A. No rest in Bethlehem

1. [**Luke 2:1-13**]- Jesus was born in a stable because there was not room to rest his head in the inn.

2. [**Luke 2:22**]- The days of purification according to the Law was 40 days.

3. However, He needed to go to Jerusalem to be dedicated. He found no permanent rest for His head in Bethlehem.

B. No rest in Jerusalem

1. [**Luke 2:39**]- Jesus did not stay in Jerusalem but went to Nazareth. He found no place of permanent rest in Jerusalem.

C. No rest in Nazareth

1. [**Matthew 2:13-14**]- Jesus was not long in Nazareth before God warned Joseph to take the boy to Egypt.

D. **No rest in Egypt**- [**Matthew 2:19-20**]- God called Jesus up out of Egypt and they went back to Nazareth.

E. **No rest again in Nazareth**- [**Luke 2:42-49**]- Jesus moved to Nazareth after Egypt. However, when He was 12 he went to Jerusalem for His bar-mitzvah. Jesus did not have rest in Nazareth so stayed behind in Jerusalem to do His Father's work. He would have no rest until it was completed. He went back to Nazareth with His parents but at thirty years of age he could not rest any longer in Nazareth. He entered full time ministry for 3 1/2 years.

F. **No rest in His ministry-** [Matthew 8:20]- Foxes have holes, birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no where to lay His head. The Greek word for "lay" is **klino**- which means to recline or rest. Jesus could not find rest until the purpose for which he was born a baby in the manger was realized.

1. [Luke 9:51]- Set His face like a flint towards Jerusalem- He could not rest until His mission was finished.

2. [Luke 12:50]- He had a baptism to undergo and was urged, compelled, and constrained until it had been accomplished.

G. **Jesus finally found rest for His HEAD at the cross-** [John 19:30]- Jesus dismissed His Spirit and bowed His head upon His chest. The word "bowed" is the same Greek word **klino**, where Jesus said He had nowhere to "rest" His head. **In death for us Jesus rested His head upon His breast which represents His great love for us.**

H. **No rest for His soul at the cross-** [Acts 2:27] Jesus descended and suffered in hell for us. His soul found no rest in hell.

III. Entering into His Rest

A. Jesus was raised on the third day because our sins were paid for and removed for us and our punishment was fully exacted upon Christ for us.

B. [Hebrews 10:12] -Jesus ascended up to heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. **Finally Jesus found complete and permanent rest after he completed the purpose for which he became a baby in the manger.**

C. [Ephesians 1:22] Jesus is the head of the church. Our head, Jesus Christ, is at rest beside God. We are His body. The body is one with the head. We are called to enter into His rest.

1. [Hebrews 4:11]- We are to labor and strive to enter into His rest- this rest is faith in His Finished Work

2. [1 Tim 6:12]- Our only fight should be the good fight of faith- A good fight is one we win. Faith is always in God's grace and finished work.

D. Jesus finds rest in us when we enter into the rest of faith in Him and His finished work

1. [Ephesians 3:17]- When we enter the rest of faith and trust in Christ's finished work then Christ **dwells** in our hearts.

Jesus **abides** in our hearts at salvation, but this verse is speaking to Christians. The word for **dwel** here is not the normal word **oikeo**- to dwell. It is **katoikeo**- to settle down. This word means to settle down and be comfortable. Christ finds rest in our hearts when we find rest in Him!

E. Jesus came as a baby 2000 years ago to provide you redemption from sin, sickness, lack, and oppression.

F. Christmas is a time everyone gets gifts except the one whose birthday it is! The number 1 thing Jesus wants from us is our faith and trust in His finished work.

G. What you can give to the Lord is faith in His finished work and to receive your deliverance, healing, provision, and freedom by faith. Speak your faith and stand on your faith. Jesus rests in your heart as you rest in Him in faith. When we do this then the purpose for which Jesus came as a baby is realized in you! Christmas is realized when you experience salvation!

H. Prayer