

# Early Will I Seek Thee

You have heard the old saying, “Early to bed; early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.” There is much wisdom in this old adage. The Bible has much to say about this subject.

When God instructed Abraham to take Isaac, his only son whom he loved, and offer him as a sacrifice on a mountain, the Bible says, “So Abraham arose early in the morning...” made the necessary preparations, and went to obey God’s instructions (Genesis 22:3).

In Genesis 28:10-22 Jacob had the dream about the angels of heaven ascending and descending on a ladder. After his dream he arose early in the morning and set up a stone memorial to honor God. He named that place Bethel—the house of God.

Hannah, in 1 Samuel 1, prayed to God fervently at the tabernacle. When Eli heard her weeping he had compassion on her, and in accord with God’s will, blessed her with the prophecy that her petition for a son would be granted to her. In verse 19, after she received God’s word, the Bible says, “Then they [Hannah and Elkanah, her husband] rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah.”

In Nehemiah 8:1-6, he speaks of a day when God’s people gathered together to hear the word of God being read. When Ezra opened the book to read, it says that all the people stood up. Then Ezra read to them “from morning until midday.” After Ezra finished the people said, “Amen, Amen!” They stood all day listening to God’s word being read and explained.

Jesus is an example of one who arose early to pray. In Mark 1:35 the Bible says, “Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.” What a beautiful example.

After Jesus was crucified and buried, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb very early in the morning (Mark 16:1-2). They were the first to see the empty tomb. And Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus alive from the dead because she had arisen early (Mark 16:9).

David wrote:

“O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your loving kindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.”

(Psalms 63:1-4)

God took notice and recorded in His holy Book the time that these faithful people arose to serve Him. God also takes notice today of every Christian’s diligence and promptness. Does God see you arise in the morning in time to pray? On the first day of the week does God see you preparing early to be on time to assemble with the Christians for Bible class, prayer, and worship? Every Christian, out of respect for God and his or her fellow Christians ought to arise early and be present before services begin. Let us work on being punctual to Bible class and worship.

“O God, You are my God; Early will I seek you...”

\*The idea for this article was taken from a lesson at Tennessee Bible College Lectures, 2013, delivered by Weylan Deaver entitled, “Early will I seek Thee...”