

Song of Rest

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Music: Matt Taylor

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"So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His." (Hebrews 4:9-10)

It was early August of 2023 when Matt sent me a new melody desiring that I match lyrics to it. That evening I had just been preaching John 6:16-21 where Jesus calms the fierce windstorm on the Sea of Galilee. So from the first listen of Matt's new tune, my mind was set on how Jesus calms the troubling storm in His people's hearts. You will notice the boat imagery throughout the song's three stanzas.

Though I had a general idea for the song, I could not seem to crystallize the song into a solid theme. By September our church in Reno began teaching through Genesis. After some weeks, we arrived at Genesis 2, and I preached on Day 7 of creation, the day God rested from His creative labor. By the time the message had been written and delivered to the congregation, I knew I had my theme for the song. I would write on the rest God gives to His people.

"Song of Rest" follows a simple order: salvation, trust, eternity. When we receive Christ as Lord and Savior we receive His rest. We were as drowning vessels far from God, helpless to guide ourselves into the harbor of eternal safety from our sin. But then Jesus came to us and called us to follow Him. Our ships are righted and we find rest as we surrender ourselves to Him in repentance and faith.

But as we sail toward heaven, the waves continue to crash, threatening to undo our reliance on the Lord Jesus. Yet in the midst of harrowing storms, He is our anchor, our Rock of Ages (a nod to one of the most beloved songs in our Christian hymnody). It is as we trust the One holding us in the fiercest of storms that we find peace. The windstorm may be chaotic outside us, but inwardly we are at rest in Him.

During the long voyage home to Jesus, many nights are dark. Yet the hope of being with Him safe in heaven's harbor illuminates our nights and pierces the darkest of doubts. He is piloting us safely home. He is our hope. He is our light. He is our future. He is our rest.