

NOW WE BEGIN AGAIN...

Rev. Morley D. Rich

Lessons: Genesis 8:13-22, Psalm 118.

If you have first read the lesson, children, you will know what Noah did the first thing after he and his family came out of the Ark. The rain had stopped at last. The great waters had gone down. And the land appeared. Noah took the covering off the Ark and, seeing this, he led his family, and the animals and birds, outside. And, the very first thing he did was to build an altar to the Lord, and offer sacrifices to him.

Noah's first thought was about the Lord. And his first feeling was a great thankfulness to Him for saving him and his family. It was a whole new day. Everything looked so new and fresh. The air smelled as if it had been washed, as indeed it had. We can easily picture this if we just remember how it is each time after a hard rain.

It was a whole new time, created by the Lord to give people a chance to make a new beginning, in which they would be able to try to do better than before. And so Noah built an altar, and offered sacrifices, and prayed thankfully to the Lord.

Perhaps you know already that the word "day" is used often in a different way, a wider way than just meaning the few hours between sunrise and sunset. This is true in the Word, and even in other books, and in talk. For example, you may have heard old people say, "Well, in my *day*, it was different;" and you understood that what they meant was "in my *time*," that is, in the years when they were young and active.

You know the blessing that is most often used in our Church before meals: "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy is forever." That is the beginning verse of a Psalm of David (118). And toward the end of that Psalm, the Lord has written, "This is the *day* which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Like all the words in the Word, "day" has many meanings and uses by which the Lord teaches us things about Himself and about heaven. Suppose, for example, you used this verse, either saying it or thinking of it right at the start of each day. It would bring to you many different thoughts through "the days of your years."

“But,” you may ask, “what could some of these wonderful thoughts be?” Well, let us think about a few of them. First we might be brought the thought that *every* day is really the Lord’s day. It is a brand-new piece of time, fresh from the hand of the Lord. It is a whole new chance given to each one of us, a chance, not only to learn and to enjoy new things, but also to *do* a little bit better than the day before, and to have a little better thought and feeling toward others.

To feel truly thankful to the Lord for each new day, to rejoice and be glad in it, to look forward to what each day may bring - that is another of those wonderful gifts which come from the Lord. It makes us feel better and think better. And it gets us more ready to live in heaven.

Also, you can think of this saying from the Word at the beginning of anything new, such as a new year, or the beginning of a new school year, or when you are starting a new and different subject or game or a new kind of work.

In time, and as the days and years pass, if you use this saying, you will find that you can say and think of it with more and more strength and feeling. You will know how true it is. You will be able to say to yourself, “Truly, this is the day that the Lord has made; (I) *will* rejoice and be glad in it.”