



DID YOU RISE UP EARLY THIS MORNING?

Wayne's Weekly Words

I suppose you must have or you would not

have made it here in time for church and, therefore, would not be reading this!

And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. Exodus 9:13 (KJV)

In order to accomplish the task ahead of him, the Lord told Moses to "Rise up early in the morning." Interestingly, this instruction only takes two words in the Hebrew text (pronouns and prepositions are affixed to words and not included in this count)

בֹּקֶר (bōqer) is "in the morning" This is not what I am writing about today. The other word is הִשְׁכַּם (shākam) is this word that means "to rise up early (in the morning)." Since it is also the name of a place, "Shechem," it appears quite often in the Old Testament.

This term is found a number of times in the Old Testament - seven in Jeremiah. The seventh occurrence is,

*I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, **rising up early and sending them**, saying, 'Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them; then you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers.' But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me.*

Jeremiah 35:15 (NKJV)

In spite of the prophet's continual early rising to take God's words to the people, they would not listen. Maybe that is why the term is not found in the New Testament. Perhaps Paul understood that later in the day was the best time to reach people.

I suppose I am unusual as I don't like getting up early in the morning. Getting up at 7:00AM on Sundays is enough. But many older people do

wake up early in the morning. Maybe God has ordained this for you! Why?

What better time in the day is there to pick up your Bible and **study** it (not just skim through the pages)? Some will say, "I am old and have read the Bible so many times, I don't need to anymore." Do you know who came up with that idea? Satan did. He doesn't want the words of the Scriptures to be fresh in your mind!

Mark 4:13-20 (KJV)

*And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? The **sower soweth the word**. And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, **Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts**. And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, **when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended**. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, **And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful**. And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.*

Mark 4:13-20 (KJV)

I think it interesting that the Lord uses this imagery. I am not a gardener but I have to do it anyway. I have learned that it is much better to keep at it, day after day, than to let it go a few weeks and that have a lot of work to do. The same is true of God's Word. A daily dose of it is much more profitable than once a week in church.

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and **searched the Scriptures daily** to find out whether these things were so.

Acts 17:11 (NKJV)

