

Rest for the People of God

Sermon 10 in the Hebrews Series

Heb. 3:16-4:11

The passage starts out with a review of what we already have seen in chapter 3 and takes the form of 3 questions and answers.

I. The Promise of Rest Remains 4:1-2

We need to understand what was their “good news” (gospel)?

That God was their God.

That God **HAD** delivered them from Egyptian slavery.

That God **WOULD** deliver them to the Promised Land.

What is our “good news”?

God is our God – just like their promise.

Their Good News was the God had delivered them from the bondage of Egyptian slavery – and our Good news is Jesus died for sinners to deliver us from our sin and slavery to Satan.

II. The Seventh Day Rest 4:3-5

v. 3 – The tense of “have believed” is an aorist (point in time).

“Do enter” – present indicative -- continuous action.

“Having once believed, we are entering and will enter that rest.”

v. 4 – A quote from Genesis 2:2

When God rested from creating:

He looked and saw that it was all good.

He was satisfied.

When the promised Messiah came and payed the penalty for our sin.

Atonement was made.

God was satisfied.

The Everlasting Rest of God was opened to us.

III. The “Rest” that is Promised 4:6-11

The full and final nature of this “rest” is primarily future.

4:1 – The promise remains -- still stands – in other words has not totally been fulfilled.

4:6 – since therefore **it remains** that some enter it

4:9 – The promise remains -- which shows it is not totally fulfilled.

Today is brought up again and again in 3:7, 3:15, 4:3, 4:7.

Today – we have no permanent resting place – we are moving toward that final eternal rest – which has begun – as we were brought to saving faith – and continues as we are believers, but our salvation still waits its ultimate consummation – because we aren’t home yet.

v. 8 -- Joshua (v. 8) wasn’t a failure.

40 years previously – the people had failed – but then Joshua led them into the Promised Land. But the Promised Land wasn’t really “The Promise” – Otherwise God would not have spoken of another day.

v. 9 – the word the KJV and the NKJV translate as “rest” is a different Greek word than “rest” elsewhere in the passage.

Sabbatismos – not just rest – but literally “Sabbath rest”.

This is an eschatological reference.

This references the eternal Sabbath that shall never end.

v. 10-11 -- Today – we labor – on that day – we enter into His rest.

Rev. 14:13 -- Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me,^[a] “Write: ‘Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

v. 11 – We must be diligent to enter that rest – we are responsible – but ultimately we enter by believing.

How could we fail?

By the following the horrible example of those who refused to enter into Canaan Land – by unbelief!