

## Strive to Enter God's Full/True Rest

### Hebrews 4:11–13

<sup>11</sup> Let us therefore *strive to enter that rest*, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. <sup>12</sup> For *the word of God* is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, ... *discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart*. <sup>13</sup> And *no creature is hidden from his sight*, but *all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account*.

### We Are Being Offered Rest from Our Enemies...

(World, Flesh & Devil)

### By Jesus Who Defeated Death!

### We Must Fight to Enter this Rest

#### 2 Corinthians 10:3–5

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For *the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh* but have *divine power* to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and *take every thought captive to obey Christ...*

- ✓ Truth about Jesus (Jn. 8:31–32, 34 “Truth will set...”)
- ✓ Righteousness/Obedience (2 Cor. 6:7)

### Jesus is With Us! (1 John 1:9)

### Do not Harden Your Hearts...Strive to Enter God's Rest With Faith!

#### Key Idea:

Daily turn and put your faith in the mercy & justice provided for us on the cross; one small choice at a time; (turning away from temptation toward obedience).

<sup>i</sup> Lewis, C. S. (2008-10-29). *The Last Battle: The Chronicles of Narnia* (p. 197-198). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

<sup>ii</sup> Kistemaker, S. J., & Hendriksen, W. (1953–2001). *Exposition of Hebrews* (Vol. 15, p. 114). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

<sup>iii</sup> Yonge, C. D. with Philo of Alexandria. (1995). *The works of Philo: complete and unabridged* (p. 89). Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.

Notes:

## In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#15 in Series] *The Journey of Evil Desires* – Numbers 11:1–14:45

*Part 5, Fight to Enter God's Rest* – Numbers 13-14; Hebrews 4:11

### Sermon Outline – July 26, 2015

#### Children's Sermon/Introduction

##### ❖ What Do You Think Heaven Will Be Like?

#### Isaiah 40:28–31

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? *The Lord is the everlasting God*, the Creator of the ends of the earth. *He does not faint or grow weary...* <sup>29</sup> *He gives power* to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup> **but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength**; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; **they shall run and not be weary**; **they shall walk and not faint**.

##### ❖ Entering God's Rest... (Narnia – The Last Battle)

“The air flew in their faces as if they were driving fast in a car without a windscreen. The country flew past as if they were seeing it from the windows of an express train. Faster and faster they raced, but no one got hot or tired or out of breath. ...If one could run without getting tired, I don't think one would often want to do anything else.”<sup>i</sup>

#### General Idea:

We stubbornly will not believe that God's wrath should be feared and His rest treasured.

#### BIG PICTURE: MISSING GOD'S REST

NUMBERS 1-10:10 – GETTING READY TO GO...

NUMBERS 10:11-36 – SETTING OUT FOR THE LAND, LED BY THE LORD

**THE JOURNEY OF REBELLION FROM SINAI TO KADESH (11–14)**

A. THREE COMPLAINTS (11–12) – **THEY CRAVED EASY; BETTER FOOD & GLORY**

B. ISRAEL REJECTS THE PROMISED LAND (13–14) – **THEY CRAVED GOING THEIR OWN WAY**

#### Overview of Israel's Hardheartedness:

Israel refused to believe God was leading them for their good and so whatever they were commanded to do, they did the opposite.

Notes:

(Review) *Be Afraid of a Hard Heart*

## Numbers 14:11

And the Lord said to Moses, “*How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me*, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?”

God clearly revealed himself to Israel.

Israel stubbornly & repeatedly refused to believe in him.

Israel has treated God as if he is not important at all.

## Hebrews 3:12–14

<sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you *an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God*.

In Hebrews 4:1–2... “the promise of entering *his rest* still stands...”

### Fight to Enter God’s Rest

#### Key Verse:

**Hebrews 4:11** “Let us therefore *strive (struggle or fight) to enter that rest*, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.”

### What do we mean by “that rest”? (Heb. 4:1-10)

<sup>3</sup> For we who have believed enter *that rest*, as he has said, “*As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest,’*” (Ps. 95:11)...

## Psalm 95:8–11

<sup>8</sup> do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, <sup>9</sup> *when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work*. <sup>10</sup> For forty years I loathed that generation and said, “They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways.” <sup>11</sup> Therefore I swore in my wrath, “*They shall not enter my rest.*”

*Why there Remains a Rest* (Numbers 14:12-38)

**1st God Mercifully Tells Moses of His Justice** (14:12)

<sup>12</sup> I will *strike them with the pestilence* and *disinherit them*, and I will make of you [Moses] a nation greater and mightier than they.”

## Moses Appeals to God’s Glory & Character (14:13-19)

Notes:

✓ What will the Nations will think of You?

✓ Your Character... (Cf. Exodus 34:6–7)

<sup>17</sup> And now, please *let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised*, saying, <sup>18</sup> ‘The Lord is *slow to anger* and *abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression*, **but** he will *by no means clear the guilty*...’

**God’s Shadow Glory** (14:20-38; How much better Jesus!)

<sup>20</sup> Then the Lord said, “*I have pardoned*, according to your word. <sup>21</sup> **But** truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord, <sup>22</sup> *none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs ...*, and yet *have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice*, <sup>23</sup> **shall see the land**... <sup>24</sup> **But** my servant Caleb... [Joshua]

**Joshua 21:44** (2 Chronicles 14:6; 15:15; 20:30)

And *the Lord gave them rest on every side* just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the Lord had given all their enemies into their hands.

...God’s/Sabbath Rest (Full/True Rest)

<sup>3b</sup> ...*They shall not enter my rest,*’ ” (Ps. 95:11) although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. <sup>4</sup> For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “*And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.*” (Gn. 2:2) <sup>5</sup> And again in this passage (Ps. 95:11) he said, “*They shall not enter my rest.*”... <sup>8</sup> For if **Joshua** had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. <sup>9</sup> *So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God*, <sup>10</sup> for whoever has entered **God’s rest** has also **rested from his works as God did from his**.

“The noun *rest* does not convey the thought of idleness but rather of peace. “It stands for consummation of a work accomplished and the joy and satisfaction attendant upon this.”<sup>iii</sup> [Only God can truly rest...]

“And by “rest” I do not mean “inaction”..., but I mean an energy completely free from labor, without any feeling of suffering, and with the most perfect ease.”<sup>iii</sup> (The New Jerusalem – A City...)

Notes: