

Christ's Better Rest (Hebrews 4:1-11)

- I. The Book of Hebrews sets forth the superiority of Christ over angels, Moses, Levi and Joshua, etc.
 - A. Joshua of old did what Moses could not do: he brought a redeemed people into their God-given inheritance. c/w **ROM 8:3-4; GAL 3:10-13.**
 - B. Joshua is spelled "Jesus" in **ACT 7:45; HEB 4:8.** Both names mean, "Jehovah saves" or "Jehovah is salvation." **ISA 43:11 c/w MAT 1:21; 1JO 3:5.**
 - C. As good and great as Joshua was, Paul shows the Hebrew Christians that Jesus is greater.
 - 1. Jesus wrought a greater inheritance: eternal in the heavens. **HEB 9:15.**
 - 2. Jesus needed not the help of the church to conquer. **HEB 9:12.**
 - 3. Joshua's church could lose their inheritance; Jesus' church has a secure inheritance. **JOH 10:27-28.**
 - 4. Jesus's rest is superior to Joshua's.
- II. In **HEB 4:1-11**, Paul applies the lesson of O.T. Israel's failing to enter into God's rest because of hard-hearted unbelief (**HEB 3:7-11, 18-19**) and sets forth a superior promised rest achieved only through obedient faith in Christ.
 - A. We must not only not *come short* of God's promise of rest, we must not even *seem* to come short of it. **v. 1 c/w 1TH 5:22.**
 - 1. to come short of: (a) to fail to reach (a standard); not to equal in some quality; to be something less than, not to amount to; †(b) not to extend to (a place) (obs.); †(c) to fail to get; also, to lose; (obs.).
 - 2. The standard is conformity to Christ (**EPH 4:13**) which demands not only not walking according to fleshly lusts, but also to not make provision for the flesh to fulfil its lusts. **ROM 13:11-14.**
 - B. The gospel was preached to Israel in the wilderness as well as unto us.
 - 1. The gospel did not profit them for lack of faith.
 - 2. The word of God works effectually in those who *believe it*. **1TH 2:13.**
 - 3. Israel served as an example of unbelieving children of God. **1CO 10:1-5.**
 - 4. They had come through the Red Sea by faith (**HEB 11:29**) but did not continue to walk by faith and so *came short*.
 - 5. They could have enjoyed unbroken partaking of Christ in fellowship but their unbelief forbade that and robbed them of their promised rest.
 - 6. Fear, rather than faith, ruled in Israel's hearts (**NUM 14:9**). Lest any let the fear of failure of fully entering Christ's rest make them give up, Paul goes on to encourage them with gospel promises of grace and mercy. **HEB 4:14-16.**
 - C. This rest transcends the sabbath rest. **vs. 3-5.**
 - 1. David spoke of another rest to a nation that observed the sabbath.
 - 2. This rest is not for a specific calendar day, but it is for today while it is called today. **v. 7; HEB 3:15.**
 - 3. This rest demands prompt action: resistance can be devastating and irremediable. **JAM 4:17; ROM 11:19-22.**
 - D. Joshua (Jesus) did not give the children of Israel that rest that remains to the people of God. **v. 8.**
 - 1. This rest transcends the rest of the earthly inheritance of Canaan which Joshua did lead them into. **DEU 12:9; JOS 1:13-15.**
 - 2. The Holy Ghost by David promised this rest "afterward," after Israel was long settled in Canaan.

3. Therefore, Christ transcends Joshua.
- E. “Therefore,” in conclusion, there is a rest remaining to the people of God beyond that of the sabbath and the land of Canaan. **vs. 6, 9.**
 1. This would be of particular importance to Jewish Christians who may have assumed that they had as a people long ago achieved God’s rest.
 2. It would also discourage the notion that Canaan and sabbaths were the epitome of God’s rest.
- F. This rest remains to *the people of God*, not the wicked. **ISA 57:20-21.**
- G. This rest is found in believing and obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ.
vs. 2-3; MAT 11:28-30; ISA 11:10 c/w ROM 15:12.
 1. Since Israel did not enter into rest because of unbelief (**HEB 3:18-19**), it follows that those who believe do enter into rest.
 2. In **v. 3**, Paul deduces a positive proposition from the negative proposition of **PSA 95:11.**
- H. To enter this rest we must cease from our own works as did God. **v. 10.**
 1. We cease working for our salvation and rest in Christ’s finished work.
ROM 10:1-4.
 2. We cease from our own works and we take the Lord’s yoke upon us.
v. 11; HEB 9:13-14.
- I. Israel’s fall in the wilderness is an example to us today. **v. 11; 1CO 10:5-11.**
 1. God bore with Israel only so long, then He swore irremediable judgment against them. **NUM 14:26-30, 40-45.**
 2. We must beware lest God so deal with us. **PRO 29:1; REV 2:21.**
- J. The promise of rest is for today, while it is called today (**HEB 3:15; 4:7; 2CO 6:1-2**). We had best not put it off.