

# Hebrews

## Chapter 4, Part 1

- I. Introduction
    - a. In our previous passage, the writer of Hebrews used the example of the generation which left Egypt and died out in the wilderness as a warning
      - i. This generation didn't endure
        - 1. They wanted to turn back to their old lives in Egypt
          - a. The recipients of this letter were being tempted to do the same because of persecution
            - i. The writer stresses the point that only those that endure are truly saved
      - ii. Today's lesson continues with this thought
- II. Commentary
  - a. **Verses 1-5**
    - i. This passage is directly linked to the passage prior by *"Therefore"*
    - ii. The word *"promise"* is here mentioned for the first time in this book
      - 1. This, however, is not nearly the final time this world will be employed by the writer
    - iii. The example of the generation that died out in the wilderness should be concerning to our modern Christian world
      - 1. Even after seeing all that God had done, that generation did not fear Him or believe in Him (**3:19**)
        - a. This was proven out by their inability to endure
    - iv. We are to have *"fear"* of the Lord
      - 1. Certainly, there is the reverential fear spoken of in **Proverbs 1:7** – *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge"*
      - 2. The lost are said to have *"no fear of God before their eyes"* (**Romans 3:18**)
      - 3. Jesus said, *"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!"* (**Luke 12:4-5**)
      - 4. The fear spoken of in this verse probably speaks more to those that have made a false profession than of reverential fear
        - a. Certainly the example of those that died in that first generation out of Egypt should strike fear in false professors
    - v. *"...lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it"*
      - 1. This is a strange thing to say amongst doctrinally minded people
      - 2. The point the writer is making here is that the promise of rest still remains for those that believe – it is not too late!
        - a. The *"today"* of this passage is an earnest appeal to believe the Gospel before it's truly too late
    - vi. The first generation removed from the Exodus simply didn't believe God (**Romans 11:1-24**)

1. They had the good news of Canaan preached to them but they simply didn't believe God would fulfill it (**Exodus 3:16-17**)
    - a. When they got to the land, they didn't believe (**Numbers 14:1-4**)
  2. Hearing the Word is not enough – you must believe it (**1 Thessalonians 1:3-4; 2:13**)
  - vii. Believers enter into the rest of God opposite to those that do not believe
    1. This is that rest which Adam and Eve originally had
    2. Notice plainly, without faith one will not enter God's rest
      - a. This point is made so many times in the New Testament, it seems odd that anybody would doubt it...but they do
    3. Those that believe, will “*rest from their labors*” (**Revelation 14:13**)
  - viii. “...*although his works were finished from the foundation of the world*”
    1. God's work finished on the 6<sup>th</sup> day
      - a. Even now, all is being carried out according to His divine plan just as it was when Jesus died for our sins
- b. **Verses 6-7**
- i. Despite the Fall, God's purpose remains for “*some to enter*” rest
    1. Satan's best attempt cannot thwart God's plan
  - ii. In David's day, the opportunity to believe God remained “*today*”
    1. To the recipients of this letter, “*today*” was the day to believe
      - a. Certainly, this promise remains today that if one would only believe, they'd have eternal life (**John 3:16-18**)
        - i. This doesn't negate God's sovereignty
        - ii. This simply stresses man's responsibility
          1. The Gospel is a true offer to salvation to all that hear it – to those that don't harden their hearts
- c. **Verses 8-10**
- i. Did true rest come when they entered Canaan?
    1. Surely the Jews did find rest in Canaan (**Joshua 21:43-45**)
      - a. However, **Psalms 95** speaks of a future rest through David, who lived after Joshua
    2. True rest doesn't come through Moses or Joshua
      - a. True rest comes through Jesus
  - ii. The Sabbath rest was merely a picture of Jesus (**Colossians 2:16-23**)
    1. An appeal to follow the Law is to miss Jesus' fulfillment of these things
      - a. Our Sabbath is not a day but the rest we have in Jesus' work (**Matthew 11:28-30**)
        - i. To trust Jesus is to cease trying to work oneself into fellowship with God (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)