

# God's Rest in Troubled Times

March 29, 2020

## Hebrews 4:1-12 ESV

**1 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.**

- **rest** (*katapausis*) a putting to rest, a calming of the seas, a resting place, the heavenly blessedness in which God dwells [not the absence of work nor activity, but the state and condition of the soul]
- I should be most afraid when I am afraid, when I'm not at rest, consumed with worry and striving in fear.
- We fear our past, present and future - yet those are all the wrong things to fear.
- The only thing we need to fear is not entering into God's rest.
- God's rest is the safest place you could ever be and the only place for God's child.
- The promise of His rest still stands. It hasn't been rescinded because others before us have failed.

## Hebrews 4:1-12 ESV

**2 For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.**

- Faith (*abiding and enduring trust*) is how I find and experience God's rest.
- I will find and experience God's rest when I trust:
  - my past is forgiven
  - my present is ordered by God, a skilled and wise craftsman
  - my future is secure and sealed

## Hebrews 4:1-12 ESV

**3 For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest,'" although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.**

**4 For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works."**

- God's works are finished - from the foundation of the world - nothing can change what He has ordained.
  - **my past forgiven**  
*Revelation 13:8 ESV*  
8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it [the beast, Antichrist], everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.
  - **my present crafted by Him**  
*Psalms 139:16 ESV*  
16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

- **my future secure and sealed**

*John 6:37-40 ESV*

*37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*

*38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.*

*39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.*

*40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.*"

#### **Hebrews 4:1-12 ESV**

**5 And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest."**

**6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience,**

*What was this rest that God's people could not enter?*

*Deuteronomy 11:8-15 ESV*

*8 You shall therefore keep the whole commandment that I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and take possession of the land that you are going over to possess,*

*9 and that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give to them and to their offspring, a land flowing with milk and honey.*

*10 For the land that you are entering to take possession of it is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and irrigated it, like a garden of vegetables.*

*11 But the land that you are going over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water by the rain from heaven,*

*12 a land that the LORD your God cares for. The eyes of the LORD your God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.*

*13 "And if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,*

*14 he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil.*

*15 And he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you shall eat and be full.*

*Genesis 2:15-16 ESV*

*15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

*16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,*

*Joshua 5:6 ESV*

*6 For the people of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD; the LORD swore to them that he would not let them see the land that the LORD had sworn to their fathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and honey.*

### Hebrews 4:1-12 ESV

7 again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

- *Just as God wanted to take Israel out of Egypt into a land of rest, flowing with milk and honey, He wants to bring His child today into that same spiritual rest of spiritual abundance.*
- *Just like the children of Israel, we become discomfited and stubborn when we're not in control, when we don't understand, when we don't know the way and God's path is painful or fearful.*
- *Surrender your pride, selfishness and control, trust God that His way and His timing are best and submit to His work!*

### Hebrews 3:12-19 ESV

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

13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

15 As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

16 For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses?

17 And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient?

19 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

### Hebrews 4:1-12 ESV

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on.

9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,

10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

- *The Christian's divine rest comes from two sources:*
  - *the indwelling Christ*
  - *the knowledge of God's love*

### Ephesians 3:14-19 ESV

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

**Hebrews 4:1-12 ESV**

**11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.**

**12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.**

*Isaiah 55:10-11 ESV*

*10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,*

*11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

*2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV*

*3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,*

*4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*