

**Hebrews 3.7 - 4.10****Strive to Enter God's Rest**

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the **apostle** and **high priest** of our confession...

Hebrews 3.1

Jesus as our High Priest – MAIN Theme of Book > thru chapter 10

OUR TEXT: FINAL Apostle > WORD of God Sent from Heaven – chapters 3 & 4

IMPORTANT Word in Text Today is REST – ‘REST’ used 4 ways in these 30 Verses

- 1) God's Rest after CREATION on 7th Day
- 2) Nation of Israel's REST in Land of Canaan
- 3) REST of Christian NOW as they put their Faith in Jesus
- 4) ETERNAL, Perfect Rest in Heaven

### 1. Warning - Don't Miss your Rest!

Global MIGRATION > SAD Reality > MILLIONS Desperate People on the MOVE

TEXT – MIGRATION Story > From 3500 yrs ago > Israel left CAPTIVITY of Egypt

TRAVELING ISRAELITES > Unique Possession > Covenant PROMISE of GOD

God to Moses: “I am the Lord...I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant... I will deliver you from slavery...and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God”

Exodus 6.2-8

Their 430 yrs SLAVERY to PHARAOH Ended One Dramatic Night

BLOOD of Lamb on Doorposts / MEAT of the Lamb in their BELLIES

More than 1 Million of Them headed Out after MIDNIGHT

Carried RICHES of Egyptians – who were Relieved to see their BACKSIDES

God of ISRAEL had SMITTEN their LAND with 10 Terrible PLAGUES

Chased by ENRAGED Pharaoh & Army – All Egypt LOST their FIRSTBORN

God OPENED Red Sea >> GATEWAY 4 Israelites / GRAVEYARD 4 Egyptians

God met ISRAEL on Other Side > Pillar of Fire WARM > Cold Desert NIGHT

PILLAR became CLOUD as SUN Rose > COVER from Desert HEAT

God gave FREE Lunch 40 yrs > No HOLES in their SMOCKS or SANDALS

GOOD BEGINNING does Not Always Guarantee GOOD ENDING

Some Xtians see Israel's relationship with God as fundamentally different than Ours

Bad Theology > Firewall between Israel & Church > There is ONE People of God

HEAVEN will be Filled w/ People of God-Given FAITH in God the Savior

Commonly MISUNDERSTAND: Israel sinned & fell / We have Jesus, Fall TOO, but He Forgives

WE Sin --- But our PARENTS were Members Here – BAPTIZED – Gave OFFERING

REASON we Read Old Testament & Have OT Stories here in Hebrews > ONE People of GOD

4.2,3 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. For we who have believed enter that rest

OUR Relationship with God is Fundamentally the SAME as the Israelites

ALL Got OUT of EGYPT >> BUT Only FEW ENTERED the Promised Land

REASON Most did NOT Get into CANAAN was NOT DISOBEDIENCE

DISOBEDIENCE is EVIDENCE of their REAL PROBLEM

HEART of the PROBLEM is the PROBLEM of the HEART > Not KNOW God

HAD Family Connections > Formal Rituals > but Did NOT have SAVING FAITH!

4.6,7 those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, 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."

Answer > Cry out to JESUS CHRIST to Make SURE you are SAVED

God's TODAY is STILL OPEN > OPEN your HEART to GOD NOW!

READERS of Hebrews > MIGRANT People, DIASPORA for RISEN JESUS

3.8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness

WRITER has Heart of PASTOR for ALL the FLOCK --- ALL of You Must COME

Ref > Exodus 17/ Numbers 14 – Passed thru RED Sea > BIG PROBLEM, No Water

Will BELIEVE God who Opened Sea will Open SPRINGS in the Desert?

Or will they PANIC, GRUMBLE, COMPLAIN, in UNBELIEF > Yes, they Did!

SIX Questions in THREE Pairs > 2<sup>nd</sup> Question of Pair ANSWERS Question...

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

Point: Everyone who DIED in Wilderness began Glorious Exodus w/ Great Expectations

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

Point: Those who ANGERED God failed to PERSEVERE in FAITH,

HOPE of the EXODUS Turned to HARDNESS of HEART

3.18,19 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

POINT > UNBELIEF leads to REBELLIOUS Actions

OLD Man MOSES NOT Well Loved by People of ISRAEL

BANNED from TWITTER > CANCELLED by COOL Kids > Israelites Signing RECALL Petition

So many RULES > Demands DISTURBED their Plans > Hindered their HAPPINESS

1<sup>st</sup> Time in Hawaii for IRON MAN --- Whole of KONA Organizes HELP Athletes

Lots of RULES --- Qualify, Time, Stay in Lane, Bike (Not E!), Hands to SELF

Any Athlete who BROKE Rules was DISQUALIFIED Immediately

Bunch of PEOPLE > CLOG Streets, Money for HOTELS & Concessions!

People of KONA wearing T-Shirts – PROUD of Athletes – Enforced All RULES!

Maybe we could ADD a Couple RULES....?

How about LOVING the GOD who Made You, ISLANDS, Gives you Every GIFT

How about RECEIVING the PRICELESS, Astounding GIFT of BLOOD of His SON

How about LISTENING to Word from GOD > Spirit-Breathed SCRIPTURES

How about FOLLOWING Wise Creation Pattern of Life > Sex, Marriage, Family, Work

How about PROTECTING the God-given Babies in Wombs of their MOTHERS

How about RESPECTING the Kupuna until Take their Last Natural Breath

Highly Surprised if ALL of KONA would Wear T-Shirt for those STUPID IDEAS

NEVER Close Down STREETS & RE-ROUTE Traffic to HONOR Living GOD

We HAVE our OWN IDEAS > SCIENCE – DEFINE Ourselves & Our World

People GO to Hell because they WANT to Go to HELL > Choice GLADLY Make

SWIM, BICYCLE, and RUN to HELL with OWN T-Shirts and OWN RULES

IF NEVER Wanted to PRAISE and OBEY God on Earth > Surely will NOT in ETERNITY

## 2. Worship - Delight in God's Rest!

Great TEACHING TOOL for the FAMILY...

Westminster Shorter Catechism 1646 1<sup>st</sup> Question – Q: What is the chief end of man?

A: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Chief End / Life's Purpose / of Man? GLORIFY God and ENJOY Him Forever

USA Man NEW BELIEVER at ICF KZ > Church-Goer from Youth in USA

Highlight of Sunday > Not Service > Seeing HOW QUICKLY RACE HOME

Clicked Stopwatch at Final AMEN > to SITTING before TV in Living Room!

'Been there, Done that!' > NOW Let's ENJOY the SPORTS on Sunday TV!

Coming to Church > Not supposed to be like Dentist's Office for ROOT CANAL

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

'SOMEWHERE SPOKEN' – 2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture in Synagogue Worship > Genesis 2

GOD RESTED! > Not Because He was TIRED, Enthroned in GLORY of Finished Work Sabbath is CELEBRATION of FINISHED CREATION

PERFECTION > SHALOM > Complete Peace – God, Man, Nature

Unlike 1<sup>st</sup> 6 Days Creation, 7<sup>th</sup> Day NO MENTION of Morning and Evening  
Sabbath >> God's FOREVER TODAY > INVITED into it TODAY

You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You. Augustine

### 3. Way to Find God's Rest

WARNING of chs 3 & 4 Based on Very Familiar words to JEWISH Worshipper

Opening Lines Psalm 95 > Call to Worship in Synagogue every Sabbath

Shows WORSHIP is More than RITUAL it is RIGHT LIVING by Faith in God

Warns them as PASTOR "Take Care Brothers!...Be VERY Careful!!"

3.10 Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.'

Mt. SINAI = WEDDING Ceremony – Israel was God's Beloved Bride

SOON ADULTERY – LOVED IDOLS Not IMMUTABLE, IMMORTAL GOD

HONEYMOON in WILDERNESS SPOILED > Irreconcilable DIFFERENCES

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

UNBELIEF is NOT a Feeling > Heart Attitude > Seen by its DISOBEDIENCE

NOT Depending on God and What He SAYS He WANTS

Some may say "I believe in God" or "I feel warm fuzzies when I sing at church"

BUT their lifestyle may still REVEAL a Fundamental UNBELIEF

HEART is CONTROL CENTER of CONDUCT / Heart of Problem, Problem of Heart

"the radical center of human selfhood" Philip Hughes

All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! ... The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? *How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?*

Numbers 14.1-23

3.13 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.

GOD is JEALOUS for Your HEART

Whatever is CENTRAL to Your HEART > Order Time, Travel, Finances, Family

Author PLEADS for them to BE SURE they ENTER God's REST

3.13 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.

SIN Deceives THEN & NOW > GRASSHOPPER Complex Continues TODAY

12 Israelite Men SPIED Out CANAAN > REPORTED Land of Milk & Honey

10 were AFRAID > Canaanite GIANTS > WE look like MERE Grasshoppers

3.11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest...

STRIVE: Think it is EASY to Follow God? Popular? Struggle to Follow Jesus in Hostile World

August 1807 CROWD Gathered on the Hudson River, New York

INVENTOR Robert FULTON going to LAUNCH his STEAM BOAT

Large Crowd gathered Shoreline Chanting: "It will NEVER START....!"

When it DID start they CHANGED Chant to: "It will Never STOP...!"

Bible Commends Confidence of Caleb & Joshua – 2 SPIES who had FAITH to GO and FIGHT!

Do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us...

Numbers 14.9

WE WILL EAT THOSE PEOPLE FOR A SNACK!! THEY'RE Piece of Cake!

We MAY be GRASSHOPPERS! But GOD is OUR GIANT!!

3.11 As I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest."

Sadly FAITHFULNESS of Moses Not Extend to Children of ISRAEL

Began EXODUS with GOD > ENDED being EXTERMINATED by GOD

If TERRIBLE to Disobey Moses, how much More Terrible to DENY Christ

Moses SERVANT in God's House, Jesus is GOD who BUILT the House

Rejecting Jesus more than missing Promised Land > ETERNAL DEATH

In JESUS we are Invited to ENTER the REST of God by FAITH

SIN was the UNDOING of God's Completed SABBATH

JESUS Sent to FINISH the NEW CREATION > REDO what Sin UNDOED

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

We Now JOIN Him because we Trust in Finished Work of His Son for Us

Have Jesus, BETTER than Anything, All God's Promises YES & AMEN in Him

Began POWER of Resurrection / PRESENCE of Spirit / PROMISES of Word

My soul finds *rest* in God alone; my *salvation* comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation  
Psalm 62.1-2

Jesus: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and *I will give you rest.*" Matthew 11.28

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Hebrews 3.7 – 4.13

Hebrews 3.<sup>7</sup>Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, <sup>8</sup>do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, <sup>9</sup>where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' <sup>11</sup>As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'" <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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. <sup>15</sup>As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." <sup>16</sup>For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? <sup>17</sup>And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup>And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? <sup>19</sup>So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. <sup>4.1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup>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. <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,'" 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." <sup>5</sup>And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest." <sup>6</sup>Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, <sup>7</sup>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." <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. <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, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and 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.”

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