

Pastor Clifford  
November 15th, 2020

# The Book of Hebrews: Chapter 4

(Blue text is Hebrews)

**“God’s promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it.**

**<sup>2</sup> For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn’t share the faith of those who listened to God.**

**<sup>3</sup> For only we who believe can enter his rest. As for the others, God said, “In my anger I took an oath: “They will never enter my place of rest,” even though this rest has been ready since he made the world.**

**<sup>4</sup> We know it is ready because of the place in the Scriptures where it mentions the seventh day: “On the seventh day God rested from all his work.”**

**<sup>5</sup> But in the other passage God said, “They will never enter my place of rest.”**

**<sup>6</sup> So God’s rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God.**

**<sup>7</sup> So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted: “Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts.”**

Ever since the fall of man God has supernaturally worked out a plan in order for man to REST!

### **First let's take a look at Israel.**

- They were taken into captivity and were forced to labor for the Egyptians under the Pharaoh's.
- God heard their cry and sent Moses as deliverer to lead them to a place of REST!

**Exodus 3:16** "Now go and call together all the elders of Israel. Tell them, 'Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has appeared to me. He told me, "I have been watching closely, and I see how the Egyptians are treating you. <sup>17</sup> I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.'"

### **But they failed to enter that rest.**

**Numbers 13:20** "Then the LORD said, "I will pardon them as you have requested. <sup>21</sup> But as surely as I live, and as surely as the earth is filled with the LORD's glory, <sup>22</sup> not one of these people will ever enter that land. They have all seen my glorious presence and the miraculous signs I performed both in Egypt and in the wilderness, but again and again they have tested me by refusing to listen to my voice. <sup>23</sup> They will never even see the land I swore to give their ancestors. None of those who have treated me with contempt will ever see it. <sup>24</sup> But my servant Caleb has a different attitude than the others have. He has remained loyal to me, so I will bring him into the land he explored. His descendants will possess their full share of that land. <sup>25</sup> Now turn around, and don't go on toward the land where the Amalekites and Canaanites live. Tomorrow you must set out for the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea."

**<sup>2</sup> For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn’t share the faith of those who listened to God. <sup>3</sup> For only we who believe can enter his rest.**

**<sup>6</sup> So God’s rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God.**

**<sup>7</sup> “Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts.”**

### **Let’s recap**

They did not enter His rest because of unbelief (and rebellion).  
They did enter His rest because of their faith.

*The author of Hebrews now speaks of another day.*

**<sup>8</sup> Now if Joshua had succeeded in giving them this rest, God would not have spoken about another day of rest still to come. <sup>9</sup> So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God.**

### **Now let’s take a look at the new Covenant (The age of the Church)**

**Jeremiah 31:31** “The day is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. <sup>32</sup> This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the LORD.<sup>33</sup> “But this

is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

**Luke 22:20** “After supper he took another cup of wine and said, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.”

This now is our rest and access, or entrance, according to the author of Hebrews is the same.

**8 Now if Joshua had succeeded in giving them this rest, God would not have spoken about another day of rest still to come. 9 So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. 10 For all who have entered into God’s rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world. 11 So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall.**

God's overall plan remains the same. He is the same yesterday today and forever.

- We enter by Faith (belief)
- Submission (follow Him)
- Repentance (**11** So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall.)

THEN we enter our REST

**All of this doctrine is being built on truth and this truth is derived from the word of God.**

**<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. <sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.**

**God is committed to His church His body.**

**<sup>14</sup> So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. <sup>15</sup> This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.**

- God understands us
- God cares for us
- Gives us the privilege to come before His throne with boldness.