



## Lesson 20

**Title:** Christ is Superior to Joshua (Part 2)

**Scripture:** Hebrews 4:1-11

**THEREFORE . . .** (Hebrews 4:1)

**Rest and Fear** (Hebrews 4:1)

**Let Us Fear** (Hebrews 4:1)

★ **BUT HERE, IN CONTEXT, WE ARE TO FEAR WHAT WE WERE JUST TOLD IN CHAPTER 3 - WE MUST FEAR OF FALLING INTO UNBELIEF AND DISOBEDIENCE!!!!**

★ How does one fear in this context?

- ① Walking circumspectly. (Ephesians 5:15-17)
- ② Diligently guarding our hearts. (Proverbs 4:23)
- ③ Being watchful and vigilant. (1 Peter 5:8)
- ④ Being steadfast in **the** faith. (1 Peter 5:9; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 3:6, 14; Colossians 2:22-23; **2 Peter 3:17**)
- ⑤ Being watchful and serious in our prayers. (1 Peter 4:7)
- ⑥ Praying, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief." (Mark 9:24)
- ⑦ Praying, "Lead us not into temptation." (Matthew 6:13; 26:41)
- ⑧ Distrusting ourselves but trusting God in all our ways. (Proverbs 3:5-7; Jeremiah 7:)
- ⑨ That God's exhortations and warnings seriously! The word "beware" is used 18 times in the New Testament. Consider one of them - Colossians 2:8.

**The PROMISE** (Hebrews 4:1) See Hebrews 11:13-16

- The PROMISE is a far off . . .
- The PROMISE must PERSUADE US . . . (we must be CONVINCED).
- The PROMISE must be EMBRACED . . . (to become one's own).

- All of God's PROMISES are YES in Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:20)
- God is/has accomplished His ETERNAL PURPOSE in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 3:11)

**Meaning of "Rest"** (Hebrews 4:1)

- ① **Stopping from work and/or action.** Applied here the idea means stopping from trying to please God with our self-effort or works in order to gain God's salvation.
- ② **Freedom for worries and anxieties.** Those who worry do not rest. God's rest means God's peace.
- ③ **Being still** – no more "running in circles"; no more running to and fro from one teaching to another; no more running from one philosophy to another.
  - We are NOT to be tossed to and fro in the doctrinal wind. (Ephesians 4:14)
  - We ARE to be ESTABLISHED, ROOTED, GROUNDED, UNMOVEABLE in Christ. (Colossians 2:7; Ephesians 3:17)
- ④ **Remaining confident and keeping trust.** To REST in something or in someone is to TRUST that thing or that person. EXAMPLE: Other soldiers can REST at night when OTHERS are guarding.
- ⑤ **To lean on.** To REST on something or someone is to put our weight on it or him. Those who REST on God lean on GOD for support to meet all our needs.
- ⑥ **HEAVEN itself.**

**Lest Any of You . . . to Come Short** (Hebrews 4: 1)

- A person can come VERY CLOSE to heaven and STILL be left outside. (See Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 13:24-25)
- The writer is PRESSING on his readers the IMPERATIVE need to PERSEVERE in the faith!
- The JUST (those justified by God because of the work of Jesus Christ) walk (live) by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 2:20; Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11-12; Hebrews 10:38)
- What does "walking by faith" look like: Exodus 14 - contrast Israel and Pharaoh's army.

**SEEM!** [we are not even to give the impression of] (Hebrews 4: 1)

- The writer's goal in his exhortation in this verse is:
  - ① To warn his readers to the DANGER of drifting way.
  - ② To stir up or heat up any COLDNESS, DULLNESS, or LAZINESS in persevering in the faith.
  - ③ To **WARN** his readers NOT TO EVEN GIVE THE IMPRESSION of drifting away! – This he does by using the word “**seem**”.
    - We must not “seem” to do so.
    - We must not give any occasion for other Christians to think we are drifting away.
- (Exodus 6:6-9; Numbers 14:1-4) Israel a picture to teach us.
- (1 Thess 5:22) – we are commanded to “abstain from all appearance of evil”. (see Philippians 4:8)



THIS IS SOMETHING THAT  
TRUE CHRISTIANS MUST  
AVOID AT ALL COST!

We are being warned against an  
empty profession!

### Psalm 95: Israel A Picture

- ISRAEL is a PICTURE of CHRISTENDOM – not God's ELECT.
  - Israel was ELECT *as a nation*. BUT there was an ELECT *inside the nation – THE REMNANT!* (See Isaiah 1:9; 10:20-23; 11:16; Jeremiah 23:3; 31:7; Joel 2:32; **Romans 9:27; 11:5**)
- The writer is attempting to show us (convince us, persuade us) that **many** in Israel were NOT TRUE BELIEVERS:
  - ① (3:10) “They do always err in heart . . .” – The elect of God *do err, but they do not always err.*” (1 John 3:4-10)
  - ② (3:10) “They have not known My ways.” – surely this cannot be said of the spiritual elect who **can** discern God's ways. (Psalm 25:14; Proverbs 3:32; John 17:2-3)
  - ③ (3:19) They could not enter into God's rest because of UNBELIEF.

### A Solemn Warning (Hebrews 4: 2-3)



- The GOSPEL gives us the PROMISE – the Rest of God!
- The Gospel was preached **to them** (those in the Wilderness and during David's time).
- MEDITATE: Luke 12:48; Matthew 11:20-24; 12:38-42.
- We are accountable for all we hear! We are to be good stewards of everything that God gives us. (Matthew 25:14-30; Hebrews 4:13)
- **HEARING IS NOT ENOUGH!**
- The GOSPEL must be mixed with FAITH.
  - **SERIOUS QUESTION:** Where does faith come from? Where did your faith come from? Does everyone have faith? (2 Thessalonians 3:2) If not, how come you have faith and others do not?
  - FAITH is a GIFT and, if it is a gift, then . . .
    - Faith comes to us from OUTSIDE of ourselves. (Galatians 3:22-26)
    - Faith is a gift of God and, therefore, it is something we ourselves do not have and something we need. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
    - ★ When is the last time you thanked God for giving you FAITH! (1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:13)
    - ★ It is IMPOSSIBLE to please God without FAITH! (Hebrews 11:6)
  - Are you a good steward of the faith given you? (Matthew 25:14-30)
  - Are you diligently (making every **effort**) adding to your faith? (2 Peter 1:3-9) “add” is an IMPERATIVE verb.
  - Is your faith growing **exceedingly**? (2 Thessalonians 1:3)
  - Do others **see** your faith in action? (James 2:14-26; 1 Thess 1:3, 8)
  - Do you pray for your brothers and sisters what is lacking in their faith? (1 Thessalonians 3:10; Colossians 4:12)
- **ONLY BELIEVERS ENTER INTO GOD'S REST!**
- **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

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## What is GOD'S REST? (Hebrews 4: 3-10)

- Verse 6 is an incomplete sentence but it is finished in verse 11.
- Hebrews 4: 7-10 is a parenthesis. "The purpose of this parenthesis is to *establish* the principle on which the exhortation (Hebrews 4: 1) is based, namely, that since there is a "rest of God" for believers to enter, and seeing that Israel of old failed to enter therein, it behooves us **today** to give the more earnest heed to the world of the Gospel which we have heard, and to "labour to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." (AWP)
- In the Old Testament there were TWO "pictures" of the REST of God"
  - ① **The SABBATH rest.** (Hebrews 4: 3b-7)
    - (Hebrews 4: 7) The writer argues that this cannot be the rest we are to since David (500 years after Moses) argues that the Israelites had not yet entered God's rest and David was exhorting HIS GENERATION not to make the SAME MISTAKE.
  - ② **The CANAAN rest.** (Hebrews 4: 8; Joshua 1:15; Deuteronomy 12:9)
    - (Hebrews 4: 8) The writer uses the SAME argument (Hebrews 4: 7) in speaking about the "rest" which Joshua (KJV: Jesus) led them into. David speaks of "another" day.
- (Hebrews 4: 9-10) There remains a rest for the people of God – a FUTURE rest (this clear from Hebrews 4: 11) - see Revelation 14:13.
  - Verse 10 refers to **CHRIST** (remember this section started back at 3:1). Our rest does not come from Moses, Joshua, or David — but from Christ - see Hebrews 6:20. Remember: we are the "body of Christ."

## An Example NOT TO FOLLOW (Hebrews 4: 11)

- "Let us . . ." The writer includes HIMSELF in this exhortation.
- "be diligent" – to work or labour hard at, to be industrious. The opposite would be to be lazy or non-caring about the issue.
- **God's rest is something to WORK at with all diligence. The LAZY man does not enter into God's rest!**
- **LABOUR to ENTER GOD'S REST:**
  - The Holy Spirit, through Paul, commands the Philippians (as well as us) to "**WORK OUT** our salvation with fear and trembling". Philippians 2:12.

- We are to **PRESS FORWARD** for the reward set before us. (Philippians 3:13-14)
- Christ commanded us to **STRIVE** (agonize) to enter the narrow gate. (Luke 13:23-24)
- Christ commanded us to **LABOUR** to things of ETERNAL value. (John 6:27-29)
- Paul tells us to **RUN the RACE** that is set before us. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Hebrews 12:1)
- Romans 2:7 tells us that eternal life is for those **patiently continue** in well doing . . .
- Paul commands us to be **STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE, ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD.** (1 Corinthians 15:58)

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