

SERMON OUTLINE

In Hebrews 4:1-13 we are shown 3 implications of the wilderness wanderers not being able to enter God's rest because of their unbelief (3:19).

- I. The promise of entering God's rest still stands, so let us not disobey as if we've not entered it (v. 1).**
 - A. For we have received the same good news:**
 - 1. The wanderers did not receive it by faith so they failed to enter (v. 2).**
 - 2. We believed and entered that rest (v.3).**
 - B. For the promised rest is the same (vs. 4-5).**
- II. Yes, the promise of God's rest remains for us.**
 - A. Though the wanderers failed to enter because of disobedience, some still need to enter while it's today (vs. 6-7).**
 - B. Joshua couldn't give God's promised rest, so there remains a Sabbath rest for God's people (vs. 8-9).**
 - C. Those who enter God's rest also rest from their works as God did (v. 10).**
- III. So then, let us strive to enter that rest so no one falls by way of disobedience (v. 11).**
 - A. For God's word is active & effective (so don't disobey it) (v. 12).**
 - B. For God is the all-seeing judge (so you can't hide) (v. 13).**

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 31, 2020

Passage: Hebrews 4:1-11

Memory Passage: Hebrews 4:9-11

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 4:1-11.** As we have noted, the writer of Hebrews is a master of transitions and vs. 1-2 are arguably his best. How does the “Therefore” which begins v. 1 tie chapter 3 to chapter 4?
- (b) To whom does the “his” refer (v. 1), and how do we know the promise of entering rest still stands?
- (c) What does our author mean by “seem to have failed to reach it?”
- (d) Why should we “fear” according to v. 1?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 4:1-11.** Verse 1 points us back to the argument made in chapter 3, while v. 2 points us forward. What was the “good news” that came to both “us” and “them,” i.e. those who failed to enter the Promised Land?
- (b) Why did the message they heard “not benefit them?”
- (c) Who are the “we who have believed” (v. 3) and how is this group separated from those who fell in the wilderness?
- (d) For what purpose does our author again quote Ps. 95:11 in v.3?
- (e) What does the fact that God long ago finished His work have to do with the idea of the rest the wilderness wanderers failed to enter (v. 3b, c)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 4:1-11.** Explain the author’s line of argument in vs. 6-11. In other words, what is his point and how does he argue it? Remember the concept of verbal analogy in which 2 or more passages containing the same word(s) are joined together for a specific purpose (we saw this extensively in chapter 1).
- (b) In case you didn’t answer this in (a), how does the “since therefore” (v. 6) function in our author’s argument?
- (c) Is David’s “today” different from our “today” (v. 7)? If so, how, and if not, how do you know?
- (d) The Greek word translated “Joshua” is the same as the Greek word translated “Jesus.” What significance would this have had to the first-century audience of this letter? What significance does it have for you?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb 4:1-11.** The same Greek word for “rest” has been used throughout chapters 3-4 until v. 9. In this verse, the noun σαββατισμός (*sabbatismos*) is used, which means “Sabbath rest.” This is the only time this word is used in the NT and the earliest use in Greek literature, so our author most likely coined it while thinking of a verb that means “to keep the Sabbath.” Why does he use this different Greek noun here in v. 9 to refer to rest?
- (b) To what Sabbath does our author refer? One that is entered in the present by faith, the future by death, at the final consummation by entering into the New Jerusalem, or some combination of the three? This is a complicated question and one that requires some thought and meditation on the flow of our author’s argument. Hint: don’t neglect your past study of Leviticus (esp. passages that connect Sabbath with rest from work, as does Hebrews 4, such as Lev. 16:29-31 & 23:26-32).

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Heb. 4:1-11.** From what “work” must one rest if one is to enter God’s rest (v. 10)?
- (b) If we are to cease from work in order to enter God’s rest, is it a contradiction to “strive” to enter that rest (v. 11)?
- (c) What “same sort of disobedience” must we avoid in order not to fall?
- (d) Write down at least 3 more applications of 4:1-11, including individual and community applications (note the constant use of “us” throughout this passage).

DATE: May 31, 2020

PASSAGE: Hebrews 4:1-11

Enter God’s Rest!