

## God's Word is Living

November 20, 2022

Hebrews 4:12-16

*"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."* **Hebrews 3:15**

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

*"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.' So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"*

**Hebrews 3:7-11**

**It's important that we understand Chapter 3 of Hebrews to be able to fully grasp Chapter 4.**

God had promised His people the land of Canaan, it was there for the taking. They decided to send 12 spies to scope out the land before going in. They did this for 40 days. Upon return the 12 spies reported what they saw, 10 of them said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are...All the people we saw were of great size...We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes" (Numbers 13:31-33)."

Two others, Caleb and Joshua, trusted that it was the land that God had promised and that God would do what He said (Numbers 14:6-7)

The 10 spies and the others didn't believe, they had a \_\_\_\_\_ heartened hearts. (Hebrews 3:15)

They failed to trust God, take Him at His Word and allow Him to be their hope.

They could have entered the land, into His rest but chose to trust \_\_\_\_\_ instead of God

"The heart of every problem is a problem in the heart. The people of Israel (except Moses, Joshua, and Caleb) erred in their hearts (Heb. 3:10), which means that their hearts wandered from God and His Word. They also had evil hearts of unbelief (Heb. 3:12); they did not believe that God would give them victory in Canaan. They had seen God perform great signs in Egypt. Yet they doubted He was adequate for the challenge of Canaan. When a person has an *erring* heart and a *disbelieving* heart, the result will also be a *hard* heart. This is a heart that is insensitive to the Word and work of God. So hard was the heart of Israel that the people even wanted to return to Egypt! Imagine wanting to exchange their freedom under God for slavery in Egypt! Of course, all this history spoke to the hearts of the readers of this letter because they were in danger of 'going back' themselves". ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

\_\_\_\_\_?

Written to Christians – 3:1, so the rest was for believers only.

Canaan represented the rest of the Lord, but they did not enter because of their disobedience. They wandered for 40 years instead.

Canaan today represents not so much heaven but our spiritual inheritance in Christ for the here and now and in the future.

"Now we can understand what the wilderness wanderings represent: the experiences of believers who will not claim their spiritual inheritance in Christ, who doubt God's Word and live in restless unbelief. To be sure, God is with them, as He was with Israel; but they do not enjoy the fullness of God's blessing. They are "out of Egypt" but they are not yet "in Canaan." With this background, we can now better understand one of the key words in this section—*rest* (Heb. 3:11, 18; 4:1, 3-5, 8-11). The writer mentioned two different "rests" found in Old Testament history: (1) God's *Sabbath rest*, when He ceased from His Creation activities (Gen. 2:2; Heb. 4:4); (2) *Israel's rest in Canaan* (Deut. 12:9; Josh. 21:43-45; Heb. 3:11). But he saw in these "rests" illustrations of the spiritual experiences of believers today. The Sabbath rest is a picture of our rest in Christ through salvation (Heb. 4:3; see Matt. 11:28). The Canaan rest is a picture

of our present rest as we claim our inheritance in Christ (Heb. 4:11-13; note the emphasis on the Word of God). The first is the rest of salvation; the second is the rest of submission." ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

We also have the future rest in \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

The Israelites missed the rest in Canaan because of \_\_\_\_\_.

So how are we sure, as Believers, we enter the current rest God has for us?

*Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. <sup>14</sup> Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

**Hebrews 4:11-16**

### God's Word:

**Absolute** \_\_\_\_\_

**Absolute Authority**

**It's quick.**

**It's** \_\_\_\_\_.

**It's a sword.**

**It divides.**

**It** \_\_\_\_\_.

**1) Let the \_\_\_\_\_ of God do the work of God. (v. 16)**

\_\_\_\_\_ it.

\_\_\_\_\_ it.

\_\_\_\_\_ it.

**2) Realize I will give an \_\_\_\_\_ for every action. (v. 17)**

**3) Hold \_\_\_\_\_ and true to the Lord. (v. 14)**

Cling to Jesus, be a Jacob!

**4) Be reminded, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ where we walk. (v. 15)**

**5) Seek and go after God with all we have, He is our refuge! (v. 16)**

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1*

### Prayer Focus:

**Do I know God?**

**Do I know God's Word?**

**Do I love God's Word?**

**Do I read God's Word?**