

# Bible Study February 22, 2023

## HEBREWS 4 (ESV) – Jesus Offer More...

Intro: Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians that were contemplating going back to Judaism because of persecutions and trials. The writer's response to the issue is to prove the supremacy of Jesus Christ to the elements of Judaism. If you got a clear understanding of who Jesus is and what he offers you are less likely to turn back.

It is important that you understand the Old Testament in order for you have a clearer understanding of Hebrews.

Hebrews highlights how Jesus is superior to the key aspects of Judaism and the OT Law.

The Book of Hebrews					
Focus	"Jesus, the Author & Finisher of our Faith" (Hebrews 12:2)				
Divisions	Christ Superior to The Angels	Christ Superior to Moses & Joshua	Christ Superior to Aaron's Priesthood	Christ Superior to the Mosaic Law	Christ the Secret to a Superior Lifestyle
	1 2	3 4	5 7	8 10	11 13
Topics	Revelation	Leader	Priest	Sacrifice	Example
	A Better Way				A Living Way
Place	Written to the Scattered Jewish Christians				
Time	About A.D. 64-68				
Author	Unknown - Believed to be the Apostle Paul by Most Scholars				

Chapter 1, 2 Jesus is Superior to the Prophets and the Angels

**Hebrews 1:1 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

**Hebrews 1:4 (ESV)** <sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

**Hebrews 3:3 (ESV)** Jesus is superior to Moses – <sup>3</sup> For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself.

### I. Jesus Offers Rest to the Weary

***<sup>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.***

A promise of rest still stands...will you 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.***

The author is referring to the generation of people that died in the wilderness because they refused to go into the promised land (Numbers 13-14). God said go take the land, ten of the twelve spies saw the giants, the problems and challenges and said we can't do it.

You have to unite the word of God with Faith in God. In the bible Jesus asked two blind men do you believe I can do this.

**Matthew 9:28-29 (ESV):** *<sup>28</sup> When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." <sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you."*

Will you believe God? Hearing is not enough; you have to mix it with faith.

- Romans 10:17 –
  - o So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (KJV)
  - o So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (ESV)

The Israelites of Moses' day illustrate a problem facing many who fill our churches today. We know a great deal about Christianity and Christ, but they do not know Christ personally—they haven't combined their knowledge with faith.

In the next verses the Holy spirit is highlighting how there have been various levels of rest in the Israelites history. But none can compare to the rest that we have in Christ.

***<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.***

## PROMISED LAND REST

One rest was the rest in the promise land. The new generation that believed the word of God entered the promised land. When you go from 400 years of slavery, and 40 years of wandering in the wilderness to home ownership, new cities, and your own fields you have entered a place of rest. Joshua led the people in conquering the land, and they received rest.

- **Joshua 21:44 (ESV)** *<sup>44</sup>And the Lord gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the Lord had given all their enemies into their hands.*

***<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.”***

God had given the Israelites the opportunity to enter Canaan, but they had disobeyed and failed to enter (Numbers 13–14).

The writer keeps going back to Psalm 95:7-11 to point out that David wrote these verses years after the people were in the promised land. To tell them that disbelief and disobedience caused them to miss the rest, but today they have the option to enter rest, because is making the offer available again.

- God is saying it is still possible for you to enter the rest, but it is not Canaan rest but sabbath rest, God’s rest.

Now God offers everyone the opportunity to enter his ultimate place of rest—he invites us to come to Christ. To enter his rest, (1) you must believe that God has this relationship in mind for you; (2) you must stop trying to create it on your own; (3) you must trust in Christ for it; and (4) you must follow him wholeheartedly. Today is the best day to find peace with God. Don’t miss out. Tomorrow may be too late.

***<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.***

God rested on the seventh day, not because he was tired, but to indicate the completion of creation. The world was perfect, and God was well satisfied with it.

***<sup>11</sup> Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.***

God wants us to enter his rest. For the Israelites of Moses’ time, this rest was the earthly rest to be found in the Promised Land. For Christians, it is peace with God now and eternal life on a new earth later. We do not need to wait for the next life to enjoy God’s rest and peace—we may have it daily now! Our daily rest in the Lord will not end with death but will become an eternal rest in the perfect place that Christ is preparing for us (John 14:1-4).

If Jesus has provided for our rest through faith, why must we “do our best to enter that rest”? This does not mean we must do good works in order to obtain salvation; it has more to do with overcoming spiritual laziness. We must make every effort to possess and experience what God has already

promised and provided. Let us not take our salvation for granted. We never arrive. Each day we must choose to draw closer to Christ, or we will drift away.

## II. Jesus offers Power in the Word

***<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.***

The Word of God gives us more than simply a collection of words from God, a vehicle for communicating his ideas; it has living, life-changing, and dynamic power that works in us. With the incisiveness of a surgeon's knife, God's Word reveals who we are and what we are not. It penetrates to the core of our moral and spiritual lives. It discerns both the good and the evil within us. God's powerful Word will change us. We must not only listen to it; we must also let it transform our lives.

***<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.***

Nothing can be hidden from God. He knows about everyone everywhere, and everything about us is wide open to his all-seeing eyes. He sees all we do and knows all we think. Even when we are unaware of his presence, he is with us. When we try to hide from him, he sees us. We can have no secrets from him. But we can take comfort in the fact that although God knows us intimately, he still loves us.

## III. Jesus Offers Grace in our Weakness

***<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.***

Christ is superior to the priests, and his priesthood is superior to their priesthood. To the Jews, the high priest was the highest religious authority in the land. He alone entered the Most Holy Place in the Temple once a year to make atonement for the sins of the whole nation (Leviticus 16). Like the high priest, Jesus mediates between God and us. As humanity's representative, he intercedes for us before God. As God's representative, he assures us of God's forgiveness. As both truly God and truly man, Jesus has more authority than the Jewish high priests. Unlike the high priest, who could go before God only once a year, Christ always sits at God's right hand, interceding for us. He will always hear us when we pray.

***<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.***

Jesus identifies with us because he experienced a full range of temptations throughout his life as a human being. We can be comforted knowing that Jesus faced all our temptations and can sympathize with us. We can be encouraged because he did not give in to sin and thus shows us that we can overcome the seductive lure of temptation. Every time we resist temptation, we become more like Jesus.

***<sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

Through prayer, we can approach God openly and honestly. Some Christians approach God meekly, with heads hung low, afraid to ask him for large requests or even for him to meet their daily needs. Others pray flippantly, giving little thought to what they say. Come with reverence, because he is your great king. But also march right in with bold assurance because he is also your friend and counselor. Be confident that he has the power to do all you ask because he owns all the treasures of heaven and earth (see 7:19; 10:19).