

“So Great a Salvation”

Lesson 4, for Sunday March 11, 2001

“Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called ‘Today,’ lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”
Hebrews 3:12-13, NAS

“Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through *following* the same example of disobedience.”
Hebrews 4:11, NAS

“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. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16, NAS

The Outline

B. The True Home of the People of God (3:1 - 4:13)

1. Jesus greater than Moses (3:1-6).
2. Second Admonition: The rejection of Jesus more serious than the rejection of Moses (3:7-19).
3. The true rest of God may be forfeited (4:1-10).
4. Exhortation to attain God’s rest (4:11-13).

The Argument

But let us beware: those who rebelled against God in the days of the wilderness wanderings were excluded from His rest in the promised land. There is, however, a better rest than that which the Israelites found in

Canaan; it is the rest which awaits the people of God. We must take care not to forfeit that rest by rebelling against God, when He speaks to us no longer through His servant Moses, as He did in those days, but through His Son, who is very much greater than Moses.

The Key Words

πιστός -- trusting, believing, full of faith, confiding

ἀπιστία -- failure to trust, unbelief, lack of trust, lack of faith

ἀδελφοὶ ἅγιοι -- Translated as “holy brethren” (That’s us)

παρακαλέω -- Translated as “encourage.” i.e. call to one’s side, summon to one’s aid, earnestly implore, exhort, urge

The Quotations

Hebrews 3:7b-11 “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tried *Me* by testing *Me*, and saw My works for forty years. Therefore I was angry with this generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart; and they did not know My ways’; as I swore in My wrath, ‘they shall not enter My rest.’” Psalm 95:7-11.

Hebrews 3:15b “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.” Psalm 95:7.

Hebrews 4:3b “As I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest.” Psalm 95:11.

Hebrews 4:4 “...and God rested on the seventh day from all His works.” Genesis 2:2.

Hebrews 4:5 “They shall not enter my rest.” Psalm 95:11 (again)

Hebrews 4:7b “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” Psalm 95:7 (again)