

# Epistle to the Hebrews

## **Chapter 4 Notes**

### **I. Key Thought:**

This entire chapter emphasizes the importance of the dangers of drifting away, and of the unique and desirable place that believers hold in God's heart and plan in Christ.

### **II. Chapter Schematic**

#### **1. There is a \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"Therefore, since the promise of entering His **rest (inheritance)** still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it (or believe that you have). For we also have had the gospel (good news) preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. Now we (who believe) who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in My anger, 'They shall never enter My **rest**.'" And yet His work has been finished since the creation of the world. For somewhere He has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all His work." And again in the passage above He says, "They shall never enter My rest." It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience. Therefore God again set a (another) certain day, calling it Today (declaring that there is still a chance for the current generation to not repeat the same mistake of unbelief and disobedience), when a long time later He spoke through David, as was said before: "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." (Psalm 95:7-11). For if Joshua (Hebrew form of the Greek name for Jesus) had given them **rest**, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His."*

**Hebrews 4:1-10**

**Rest**= "katapausis" (Gr.) ***"A Sabbath rest; a repose (a peace within that affects life without)"***

#### **Rest is used in four distinct contexts here:**

**a.) In reference to peace of God (*a fruit of salvation and right standing with the Father.*)**

**SEE Matthew 11:28-20**

**b. The Promised Land (O.T. Gospel---Joshua having brought the children of Israel into the land—thus having a restful place safe from wars and invaders.)**

**c.) The rest of God after the sixth day of Creation**

**d.) The ultimate rest in keeping with the believer's role in the Messianic Kingdom (Heaven or eternal life---the experience of which begins in the here and now, will find its ultimate culmination in Glory. It is there where believers will finally and completely "*Cease from their works.*")**

(SEE Revelation 14:13, II Timothy 4:6-8 AND Matthew 10:22 endures—“to bear up under; to persevere.”)

Practical observations:

- God makes men the offer of life/rest
- To obtain these promises, two things are necessary: faith (trust) and obedience
- There is an implied limitation in God’s offer---the duration of one’s life

2. We should never underestimate the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word.

*“Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience (See I Cor. 10:1-12). For the word of God (See Rev.19:15-16) is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and intents of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account (See Romans 14:12-13). 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. 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. 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*

Uncovered—to have a spirit/soul-being without its body (See II Corinthians 5:3)

laid bare---trachelizo—“to bend back the neck”—as a wrestler holding a grip like a rear naked choke so as to win the match by causing the opponent to become prostrated. (i.e., nothing is hidden and all exposed to Him Who has charge over us.)

v.15

*“Jesus had a knowledge of every kind of temptation except that which comes from actually having sinned.”*

v.16

High Priest= Having this High Priest gives us confidence each day, so we’re encouraged to approach the throne of God boldly. In view of what this High Priest---Jesus---has accomplished for us, there is no longer any barrier—physical or spiritual—between the Father and us.

Typical Roles of High Priest

Offer sacrifices---See Lev.4:3-21

Represent the people with the atoning blood—Leviticus 16:14-15; Exodus 30:10

Jesus tore down the dividing wall---Mark 15:33-37

mercy= We need His mercy because we’ve failed so much and so often

grace (to help)= We need His grace---and a fresh supply of it—in order to live victoriously each day!

#### **Answer Key –Chapter 4**

1. rest that we dare not miss
2. living power and potency