

Hebrews 3:1 – 4:13

The Failure of Moses' Generation

3:7-11 cf. Ps 95:7-11

Analogy #1: The generation that was delivered from Egypt failed to attain their goal: the Promised Land, Israel's inheritance.

Why? Disobedience rooted in unbelief (3:18-19)

- This is the same accusation God laid upon Moses when he disobeyed at Meribah (Num 20:12)

The relationship between rest, inheritance and the Promised Land

Deuteronomy 3:19–20 (NASB95)

¹⁹ 'But your wives and your little ones and your livestock (I know that you have much livestock) shall remain in your cities which I have given you, ²⁰ until the LORD gives rest to your fellow countrymen as to you, and they also possess the land which the LORD your God will give them beyond the Jordan. Then you may return every man to his possession which I have given you.'

Deuteronomy 12:9–10 (NASB95)

⁹ for you have not as yet come to the resting place and the inheritance which the LORD your God is giving you. ¹⁰ "When you cross the Jordan and live in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies around *you* so that you live in security,

Warning #2 Let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. (Heb 4:1)

The good news was preached to those who fell (4:2)

Exodus 19:3–6 (NASB95)

³ Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: ⁴ 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. ⁵ 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; ⁶ and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

Exodus 23:20–22 (NASB95)

²⁰ "Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. ²¹ "Be on your guard before him and obey his voice; do not be rebellious toward him, for he will not pardon your transgression, since My name is in him. ²²

“But if you truly obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

The good news preached to the recipients of Hebrews

A promise remains to enter my rest... (4:7 cf. Ps 95:7)

Heb 4:3-8

Analogy #2: God rested from his works after 6 days of creation

Hebrews 4:4–5 (NASB95)

⁴ For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh *day*: “AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS”; ⁵ and again in this *passage*, “THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.”

Hebrews 4:10 (NASB95)

¹⁰ For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.

The rest God offers is not the same as in Joshua’s day (Josh 22:4; 23:1) for David would not have spoken later of another rest (Ps 95:7).

Reminder: Failure to enter was due to disobedience (a lack of faith in the promise) Heb 4:11