

H O U S E o f W I S D O M
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Hebrews 4 - Part II

Did the people in the times of Adam, Noah or Abraham need a book to tell them that there was a God who created all things? I, like all Christians, was taught that Genesis, chapters 1-3 were describing the creation of the physical world, and the actual fall of mankind. In the Hebrews 4, Part I study, questions 3 and 4 gave evidence that these chapters in Genesis are describing in a parable, the spiritual completion of mankind in the image of God, which is not yet finished. Additionally, God has never ceased from His work to bring it about. *For (this reason) the ones believing do enter into the rest, Heb 4:3.*

Read Hebrews 4:7-11:

1. In verses 7 & 8, what is another way 'the rest' is referred to?

{In verse 7 the word *limiteth* is old English for *appointed*. The base meaning of the Greek is *to define, to mark out*; in the accusative, *to appoint, to decree*. A 'day' here does not refer to 24 hours, but a period of time that runs parallel to the rise of evil in the world. A certain *day*, or time was appointed by God in the beginning when mankind would be brought into His fullness through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son.}

2. At the writing of the book of Hebrews, did Paul make *the rest* present or future to his day? Verse 9

{Actually, both - see Heb 4:3. The rest has always been there, but how to accomplish it was not understood until after the cross. A different word for *rest* ^{g4520} is used in verse nine instead of *katapausis* ^{g2363} or *katapauo* ^{g2364}. The root of *Sabbatismos* ^{g4520} is transliterated from the Hebrew word *shabbat* ^{h7676}. It means *a keeping of the sabbath* (or rest). The Jews were required to literally rest from all work on the seventh day; it was a sign between God & Israel in the wilderness, Eze 20:10-13, & a type of entering into the spiritual rest of which Paul writes about here in Hebrews, & why he says Joshua did not give them rest - It is not literal.}

4. What proof does Paul give that the 'rest' is spiritual and future? Verse 7-8; Josh 21:44-45; 23:14-16; Ps 95:7-11

{The KJ & other older versions put *Jesus* with a marginal note that *Joshua* is meant, whose names are the same, cp Acts 7:45. Joshua gave Israel temporal rest, from their enemies in Canaan, not a spiritual rest. The Holy Spirit through David said, *Today, if you will hear His voice....*}

5. How are we to enter the rest? Verse 10

{We are to cease from our own works for our salvation, Eph 2:8-9, and have dominion over the work of God's hands, Ps 8:6; Gen 1:28. Let us therefore, be diligent to enter that rest. As a friend stated: *We need to accept that we can enter God's rest now! We have to enter now so that we can cease from our own works & God can fix us; then He can rest.*}

Read Hebrews 4:12-16:

Actual Greek for the first of verse 12: *For the word of God is living and active.*

6. How would you explain this phrase to another person? Jn 5:26; 6:63; Rom 10:9

{Spiritual life is obtained by the concepts contained in words, & when applied will change the heart. The action of God's word is displayed by our obedience to those spiritual concepts.}

7. To what does the *two-edged sword* refer? Ps 57:4

{God's word is also likened to a sword, Eph 6:17; words out of the mouth that cut to the soul, Rv 1:16.}

8. What do these represent inwardly - Soul, Spirit, Joints, Marrow? Soul: Lv 17:11, 14^{h5315}; Spirit: Job 20:3; Joints: Col 2:18-19 (Bones: Jer 20:9); Marrow: Pr 3:7-8.

{Life^{h5315} is in the blood. Just as blood carries nourishment to the physical body, the *soul* is a person's spiritual life, or, the record of all one knows by knowledge & experience; The spirit (breath) it is that which delivers information from the soul to others; The bones of the body are held together by *joints & ligaments*, the body being a symbol of *self* & the joints & ligaments representing the spiritual connections that make us who we are. When the king of Babylon saw the handwriting on the wall, *the joints of his loins* (mind, 1Pt 1:13) *were loosed, and his knees smote one against another*, Dan 5:6 - i.e. all things are naked & open to God, Pr 20:27; Bone marrow makes blood for the body. Spiritually, blood is understanding coming from self. Eternal life is in the understanding of spiritual things - thus, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin, 1Jn 1:7.}

9. In how many points like ourselves, was our High Priest tempted and how many times did he sin? Verses 14, 15

{Jesus, in his humanity, is our example & confidence. *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Amen!*}