

A HOUSE FOR HIS NAME

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Expositional Study – “The Book of Hebrews -# 05”

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Text: Hebrews 4:1-16

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JESUS – THE GOD OF RESCUE AND REST

INTRODUCTION: As we come to chapter four, the writer of Hebrews continues to broaden his theme of the need for his audience of followers to enter God’s “rest.” He refers back to when the people of Israel left Egypt and that there was rest awaiting them in the Promised Land. But they missed it by refusing to trust their miracle working God to give them Canaan. So by stubborn unbelief, they spent the remainder of their lives in the wilderness, till they all passed away. Meanwhile, God was raising up their children to be a new generation of believers, who would trust God and be blessed with God’s promised “rest.” Let’s look at this concept, as we see . . .

I. THE PROVISIONAL PROMISE OF GOD - (4:1-11)

A) God’s Rest Designed – For All Followers

B) God’s Rest Distributed – For All By Faith

II. THE PENETRATIVE POWER OF GOD - (4:12-13)

A) It is the Written Word

B) It is the Working Word

III. THE PERFECT PRIEST OF GOD - (4:14-16)

A) An Unequaled High Priest – King Jesus

B) An Understanding High Priest – King Jesus

C) An Unlimited High Priest – King Jesus

CONCLUSION: How God the Spirit longed for the Jewish people of the first century to come to the knowledge of the truth about Jesus, and about this new faith called Christianity. As their forefathers heard and saw God’s deliverances from Egypt, so the Jewish seekers of God, needed to take the step of faith and fully surrender to Jesus Christ as their Messiah and Lord God. Failure would, like their forefathers, deny them God’s “Rest,” that is His inner peace, His promises of eternal life, and His power to live triumphantly in their days ahead. Of course, this same offer was to the Gentile seekers too. Trusting Jesus Christ and His offer of salvation by fully surrendering was the key to entering their “rest” as well. Say, have you entered God’s Rest, by faith and surrender?

BIBLE TEXT FOR MESSAGE

The New International Version 2011

Hebrews 4:1-16 (NIV)

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. 2 For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed. 3 Now we 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 works have been finished since the creation of the world. 4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: “On the seventh day God rested from all his works.” 5 And again in the passage above he says, “They shall never enter my rest.” 6 Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience, 7 God again set a certain day, calling it “Today.” This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. 9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10 for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. 11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 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.

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.