

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



4. An Encouragement to God's House

Introduction

Someone has said, "Opportunities are greater today than ever before in history." That is not only true in the world, but also for God's people. God has promises for his people that we need to enter into and possess. In our last study we saw how the Children of Israel missed their opportunity to enter into the Promised Land, the 'rest' that God had for them. We are encouraged not to miss that opportunity.

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 4:1-13

- ❖ What is the promise that God gives us in verses 1 and 9?
- ❖ The rest God had promised the Children of Israel was the Promised Land. Why did they fail to enter that rest? V2, 6
- ❖ What proof does the author give that the 'rest' God spoke about was not only referring to the Promised Land? V3, 7-8. What do you think it means to enter God's rest? Discuss.
- ❖ Let's study God's Word to get a clearer picture of the 'rest' that God has promised us. See Hebrews 4:10, Ephesians 2:8-10, Revelation 14:13. What are the different meanings for 'rest' in these verses?
- ❖ Although we may have put our faith in Christ for our salvation, we often struggle to live it out. How can we learn to 'rest from our work'?
- ❖ It seems strange that the author now says, 'make every effort to enter that rest!' v11. How can we do that without struggling in the flesh?
- ❖ What important truths can we learn about the Word of God from verses 12 and 13?

For Thought

In v13 we are told that everything will be uncovered. Often we pretend or cover our true thoughts and feelings. Why do we do this?

- ❖ How does v13 motivate us to be careful to make every effort to enter into all that God has for us?

Conclusion

God has promised us 'rest'. This begins with salvation, when we receive forgiveness, and includes all he has promised us in Christ: peace, victory over sin, joy, freedom within, healing, our needs provided, guidance – and then eternal life in Heaven. He encourages us to 'make every effort' to enter into all that he has for us. Let's do that!