

# The “Rest” of God

May 10, 2020

*“Now these things happened to them as an example and warning [to us]; they were written for our instruction [to admonish and equip us], upon whom the ends of the ages have come.” (1 Cor 10:11 AMP)*

**(See Deut. 11)** It was always God’s desire to bring Israel into the land of promise or Canaan to possess it.

Notice the “goodness of the land”

- Prolonged days (long life)
- It was sworn that God was going to give it to you & your seed
- Flows with milk & honey

“A land flowing with milk and honey” is indicative and symptomatic of a greater good. The Midrash- which is a Hebrew term for the body of homiletical stories told by Jewish Rabbinic sages to explain passages in the O.T., explains that milk symbolizes superior quality, richness of taste, and nourishment. Honey represents sweetness.

- From a spiritual perspective, “milk and honey” does not just describes a place or land of abundant fertility and economic prosperity. But a place of spiritual energy which effects the mindset of the people receiving it.
- Not only is the land abundantly fertile and prosperous, but your mind is rich as the land!

**(Story: *The Pauper and the Prince*)**

- A land for which the Lord your God cares
- His eyes are always on it

It has always been God’s design to give you the kingdom. He has always wanted us to participate in the treasures of His goodness. The problem is that we have to work on our receiver. We all have had problems adjusting our receiver.

God’s ways are higher, much higher than we can conceive; therefore, we have to renew our mind to where/what our heavenly Father is thinking.

**(Story: *Jason and my M&M’s*)**

- “...And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” (Eph 2:6-7)
- “And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches (*ploutos*) in glory (Gr. - *doxa*, Heb. - *kabod*).” (Phil. 4:19 Amp)
- “If you abide in me, and My words abide in me, you shall ask whatever you wish, and to you it will come to pass.” (Berean Study Bible – John 15:7)
- “Until now you have not asked [the Father] for anything in My name; but now ask and keep on asking and you will receive, so that your joy may be full and complete.” (John 16:24 Amp)

***“The Promise Land” (all that it contains/entails) is beyond what you ask or think!***

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**(Story: A pastor visits Israel, then flies to Egypt and finds out how far Israel is from Egypt.)**

How far is it from Egypt to Israel? One of the locals answered saying:

- If you walk – 40 days
- If you take a bus – 24 hrs.
- If you take a plane – 20 minutes

**\*\*After Israel refused to go into Canaan because of fear and unbelief, they had to wander 40 years for a journey that only took 40 days.**

- Some people have been wandering in the wilderness so long, we think we are supposed to be there!
- God is so good, that He will still provide for you in the wilderness, even though He desires deeply for you to live in the “Promise Land”!

Let me reiterate and be perfectly clear. We are in the promise land **NOW** because of the New Covenant- because of what Christ has accomplished/finished on our behalf.

(See Ephesians 1:3-14)

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I remember hearing a man mention how he had a heavenly encounter in which he saw millions of people stuck in the dark night of the soul and wilderness. The strangest part of the encounter was that most of the people thought they needed to be there. They felt comforted by the Lord and were content with just staying where they were.

- Just because God provided manna and quail in the wilderness, does not mean they were meant to stay there.
- Many of us have been “wired” for the Land of Promise, but programmed to stay in the wilderness!

***If we don’t change mentally, we won’t move physically!***

- 1) We are no longer in Egypt
  - a. Eph. 2:10
    - i. “With”
      - Pros – (face to face)
      - Meta – (intertwined)
      - Para – (along-side)
      - Sun – (reanimate conjointly) – draw line and draw another line on top of the first line
- 2) It’s not God’s will for you to keep toiling!
  - a. Proverbs 10:22, Genesis 26:12

Genesis 13:14-16 | Galatians 3:29

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## “REST”

- Cessation of Movement
  - The cessation of movement or action in order to relax
- Cessation of Labor
  - A state of freedom from exertion or effort
- Freedom from Anxiety
  - Freedom from mental or emotional stress
- Repose of Sleep
  - A state of rest, sleep or tranquility that is refreshing to the body
- Repose of Death
  - Death perceived as freedom from earthly toil

## The “Rest” Being Offered – (Hebrews)

- Because of their present situation (persecution for turning to Christ), they too might fall short of attaining **ALL** God wants them to attain in life.
- The promise of rest is still available because it was never totally fulfilled. The promise of “rest” in the O.T. was unfulfilled (for the Israelites who rebelled), but it was not withdrawn; it is available to those who want it...now!
- The entire purpose of the letter to the Hebrews was to get the Jewish Believers to enter the FULLNESS of “Rest.”

In chapters 3 & 4 of Hebrews, the writer used two different words for “rest.” The one he used the most was:

*Katapausis* (8 times) – Heb. 3:11, 18; 4:1, 3,5,10,11

Defined as “cessation of activity” – Rest in the ceasing of one’s own works and relying on the work of God.

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In the LXX, (the Greek translation of the O.T.), it includes notable passages where the word for “rest” (*Katapausis*), in connection with Israel’s possession of the land, is clearly paralleled with the word for “Inheritance” – (*Kleronomia*)

Katapausis = Kleronomia (Rest = Inheritance) - (Deut. 3:18-20; 12:9, 10)

Moses clearly showed that, for Israel, their rest was their inheritance.

That Christians Believers are “Heirs” was already affirmed (Heb 1:14; 6:12, 17; 9:15)

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## The “Rest” Being Offered

Like their ancestors at Kadesh, the recipients of the Epistle of Hebrews had a promise from God “of entering into His rest.” (Heb. 4:1)

Note:

- This is not the rest of salvation, for they are recognized as Believers already. (Heb. 3:1)
- Nor is it the future millennial rest in which all persecution will cease.
- Nor is it Heaven, because of the “Giants.”

Thus, we conclude that the “Rest” is that faith/life rest which a Believer enters by faith only, and which he enjoys; the inheritance that God gives to those who walk by faith and not by sight.

Remember, we follow God in:

- Allegiance
- Obedience
- Continuance

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“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. (Heb. 4:2; Num. 13-14)

- The emphasis is on the necessity of faith to attain the spiritual blessings of their inheritance!
- The Hebrew writer summarizes that the Believers are exhorted to “hold fast” to their confidence in Christ!
- Confidence – ***Parresia*** – Bold speaking and all out frankness

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Alluding to Psalm 95, the author warned that their lack of faith and confidence in Christ could jeopardize their rest. Similar to what happened to the Exodus Generation, potentially resulting in their loss of physical life. (Heb. 3:17-19)

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