

Title: Enter His Rest
Passage: Heb 3-5
Date: 27 Mar 2022
Speaker: Jason Hoet
Series: Fixed on Jesus

Read Heb 3:12-19

[stream from my mobile ph to start – at front of house]

Welcome to our home.

[slide – build]

Built – 8 years ago. Strange for 9 months feel like a visitor to home. Builders, Site Manager – Andrew. Key person.

[slide – build]

But eventually building is done, the house complete and the keys are handed over. This is our home.

Andrew can drive past and say we built that home. Our family enters and can say, this is our home.

[Return to laptop stream]

Something of this dynamic is present as we begin Ch 3 of Hebrews.

Read V1 -2

Jesus is named as 'apostle & high priest'. One who is sent by God and also stands between God and people. These 2 roles were not held by many people in the bible, Moses is the standout.

Moses was an esteemed man of God. He led the people of God is called v5 faithful as a servant in all God's house.

But v6 "But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house.

Moses was servant in God's house, Jesus as the son owns God's house.

From this point the writer take the opportunity to bring a lesson from the time of Moses by referring to Ps 95

Because he wants the readers to know...

"And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory."

The Exodus is a defining story for Israel.

It is a story of **triumph** – conquest of Egypt

It is also a story of **tragedy** – because an entire generation missed out on entering the land God promised them. Wandered 40 years and perished in wilderness.

Psalm 95 was read out at Sabbath gatherings and gets to the heart of the problem.

Hebrews quotes the relevant passage.

[slide]

Read Heb 3:7 – 11

The Psalmist urges the people of God to not harden their hearts like their Exodus ancestors. They had hard hearts, They tested and tried God, They went astray, they did not walk in God's ways. 3V19 summary "So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief."

Psalm ends with God's declaration

"So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.' "

That is an interesting way to say a generation of wandering Israelites never entered Canaan, the land of promise - 'Never enter my rest'

Hebrews expands on this idea of entering God's rest.

It reminds us God's rest began on 7th day of creation.

[slide]

4: 3- 4 "And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world. For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "On the seventh day God rested from all his works.

While on day 6 humanity was God's final work of creation, we were not the conclusion of God's work. God finished his work by resting.

Rest is the main goal of creation.

[slide]

Gen 2:2 2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

God's rest meant his work was finished. Complete. And Heb says this has been true since the creation of the world.

But God's rest does not mean idleness. He did not walk away from the world to take a holiday.

God's rest means his creation work is done. There is nothing more to do. Now things are ready for it to become all it will be.

[with our house on lockup – the building was done. We could come home and rest in it. But this hasn't meant idleness, we have filled out what the house created to make it a home.]

God's rest means he has a creation now to fill out and make into a home, from which to rule and reign.

Psalm 132 expresses this idea

[slide] For the Lord has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling, saying, "This is my resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it.

[slide]

God's rest is not so much about relaxation, more recognition that this is God's creation, it is complete, and God is in control.

The Sabbath day was Israel's opportunity to participate and celebrate God's rest. Offered people the opportunity to step away from their own work, reset their week and remind themselves this is God's world and God is in control.

In Psalm 95 God declares 'They shall never enter my rest.' "

Entering Canaan, God's land of promise was meant to be like the Sabbath day. Enjoying God's rest. Israel has come home now, and can now fill the land with all God's blessings under God's rule and reign.

This rest still required real work.

It is not until the end of the leadership of Moses' successor Joshua, it says in Josh 23:1, God gave Israel 'rest from all her enemies.'

But Hebrews highlights from Psalm 95 that Despite having entered the land, despite the defeat of their enemies, despite hundreds of years of settlement, even then Israel had not yet entered into God's rest.

Here was David still urging his people, "Today listen to God, Otherwise, you will miss God's rest too.

[slide] Read 4v6-11

3000 years after King David and even the Christian is still waiting to enter that rest.

What are we waiting for? What are you waiting for?

To come home. To live under God's rule and reign and together fill out creation with God's love and bring joy and blessing and wonder.

Or 11v10 looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God

From Psalm 95 did you notice God knew the hearts of the ancestors, he knew their rebellion and testing

Nothing was hidden from God.

That's why Hebrews wraps up this section with these words

[slide] Read 4:12-13

Hearts are revealed before God

Ancestors might have resisted God's word through unbelief

But God's word prevailed and he was true to his word. The unbelieving generation did not enter God's rest.

But not just the ancestors. The writer of Hebrews is expecting God's word through this letter to act as a warning and invitation

Read 3:v12-14

But not just the first readers, also today, this very word is again being worked out through our hearing and in our lives.

We might be resistant, hard hearted, disobedient.

But God's word is appealing to us. Don't be.

That is why gathering to encourage one another to fix our thoughts on Jesus is never insignificant.

[slide] 3:13

Not just Sunday "encourage one another daily"

This is responsibility of family, friends

Our growth groups. – vital work to help one another follow Jesus

We should not take our hearts for granted. We should not take temptation for granted.

This is a personal, and community challenge.

Attend to yourself. Attend to one another.

[slide] - today

Ensure today we make every effort to enter God's rest.

- Today we turn towards God
- Today we have soft hearts
- Today we share in christ
- Today we fix our thoughts on Jesus.

Response/Prayer/Care cards