

Failure To Enter Into Rest.

Joshua 13:1-7.

Sunday evening, June 13, 2010.

I. The unconquered territories.

- A. Last time we were together in the book of Joshua we cited some reasons as to why the warfare stopped at this time, and Israel was made to inherit that part of the promised land that had been conquered.
1. the Lord had promised to give the land to His people little by little. They were to grow into the land. Deut. 7:22.
 2. The generation that had been under twenty years old when Israel was turned back the first time they came to the borders of the promised land would not die out before receiving their inheritance. The oldest among those were 60yrs old when Israel returned the second time to the borders of the promised land, and now after about 25 yrs of warfare they would be about 85 yrs old.
 3. Joshua, who was to divide up the land, was now about 100 yrs old, and he would live to be 110. He still had to embark upon the task of settling each tribe into her territory.
- B. Now in ch. 13 we are told of the nations, tribes and territories Israel was as yet to conquer. It included the land belonging to the Philistines in the south, which is today known as the Gaza strip. It also included the territories to the North which are known today as Lebanon and Syria, as far North as the Euphrates River. Some observations about those territories:
1. Only under the rule of David and Solomon, some 400 yrs later, did Israel actually rule over all this land.
 2. However, they never dispossessed those nations of their land in order to make it the inheritance of the Lord's people. They did not even do so under the godly kingships of David and Solomon.
 3. They only put these people under tribute and used them to labor on various building projects.
 4. Thus these nations would continue to trouble Israel throughout her history and entice them to fall into the kinds of idolatry they practiced.

II. God's rest.

The writer to the Hebrews refers back to the period in Israel's history of her wilderness wanderings as well as the period of the conquest under Joshua in Hebrews 3 and 4. He refers to it as a failure to enter into God's rest.

He says that God was displeased with the generation that died in the wilderness and that He swore in His wrath that they would not enter into His rest. Hebr. 3:11.

He points out in Hebrews 4:8 that Joshua did not bring them into this rest either.

What is the rest of God into which we are urged to enter?

- A. The writer to the Hebrews points out that this rest was prepared from the foundation of the world. He refers to Genesis 2:2 where it is stated that God rested from all His works on the seventh day.
- B. This invites a question, for how could God rest from all His works if the world was about to be plunged into the chaos caused by the fall of man into sin, and

- the Lord would have to embark on the great work of redemption?
- C. The long and short of the answer to this question is that when the Lord entered into His rest on the seventh day, He also entered into rest from the work of redemption.
 - 1. Ephesians 1:4 tells us that by the time the seventh day rolls around God had already chosen us in Christ. The work of election was done already.
 - 2. 1 Peter 1:20 tells us that by the time the seventh day comes around the Lord Jesus was already foreordained as our Savior although not yet manifested as such.
 - 3. Revelation 13:8 tells us of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the earth.
 - 4. Revelation 17:8 speaks of the lost as those whose names are not written in the book of life from the foundation of the earth.
 - D. The great work of redemption and restoration has been put into the hands of a Mediator; into the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1. All power (authority) has been given to Him in heaven and on earth. Matt. 28:18.
 - 2. Jesus refers to this authority in His High Priestly prayer in John 17:2.
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 15:27-28 tells us that God (the Father) has put all things under the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that one day the Lord Jesus will return the completed kingdom to God the Father.
 - E. On the seventh day of creation God (the Father; we are dealing with the economic trinity here) enters into His rest:
 - 1. He does so by handing over all authority over the created order into the capable hands of the Lord Jesus Christ who will undertake the work of redemption and restoration once the fall has occurred..
 - 2. God shows His complete faith and confidence in His Son by entering into His rest. That is why the Father could say at the time of Christ's baptism, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17.
 - 3. In calling us to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, God calls us to do what He Himself is doing. That is why it is called an entering into His (God the Father's) rest.
 - 4. In coming to faith in Christ we come to the place of rest; the place our heavenly Father came to on the seventh day of creation; and we cease from our own works even as God did from His. Hebr. 4:10.

III. Two types of this rest.

- A. Earthly Canaan functioned as a type of the heavenly kingdom the Lord Jesus was preparing by his work of redemption and restoration. Here God's people may live undisturbed, in peace and in prosperity. Israel did not attain to that rest; not even in type, by not following in humble faith and obedience.
- B. The Sabbath day. This day points us to the rest God the father has been enjoying since the creation week by putting His complete trust and confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ. One day in seven the Lord asks us to reflect upon this rest; to renew our commitment to it; to enter into it again together with Him. "there remains a 'Sabbatismos,' a Sabbath keeping to the people of God. Hebrews 4:9.