

Hebrews 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

Analysis

God's oath ('ōmosa' - I swore) carries absolute certainty. 'They shall not enter my rest' pronounces irrevocable judgment on the unbelieving generation. The 'rest' typologically points beyond Canaan to the eternal rest of salvation. Reformed theology sees this as illustrating God's justice in judging persistent unbelief and the reality of reprobation - not all will be saved, despite outward religious affiliation.

Historical Context

Numbers 14:21-23 records this oath after Israel's refusal to enter Canaan. Except Joshua and Caleb, that entire generation died in the wilderness, never experiencing the promised land rest.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does God's oath teach about the certainty of His judgments and promises?

2. How does the reality of divine judgment motivate holy living and sharing the gospel?

Interlinear Text

ώς ὁμοσα ἐν τῇ ὄργῃ μου Εἰ εἰσελεύσονται εἰς τὴν
So I swear in wrath my not They shall into G3588 G3709 G3450 G1487 G1525 G1519 G3588
G5613 G3660 G1722 G3450 G1487 G1525 G1519

κατάπαυσίν μου
rest my G2663 G3450

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 4:3 (Judgment): For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Deuteronomy 2:14 (Parallel theme): And the space in which we came from Kadesh-barnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the LORD sware unto them.

Hebrews 4:9 (Parallel theme): There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

Hebrews 4:5 (Parallel theme): And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

Psalms 95:11 (Judgment): Unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

Numbers 14:35 (Parallel theme): I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.