

Hebrews 4:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Analysis

The 'promise of entering his rest' remains valid, creating both opportunity and danger. The fear urged is not paralyzing dread but reverent caution. 'Come short' (Greek 'hystereo') means to fail to reach or be left behind. This rest is not merely Canaan but the ultimate sabbath rest in God's presence, foreshadowed by both creation rest and the Promised Land.

Historical Context

The rest theme connects creation (Genesis 2:2), conquest (Joshua), and eschatological fulfillment. First-century readers familiar with Jewish sabbath theology would grasp the layered meaning.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What prevents you from fully entering God's rest in your daily experience?
2. How does understanding rest as relationship with God change your pursuit of it?

Interlinear Text

Φοβηθῶμεν οὖν μήποτε καταλειπομένης ἐπαγγελίας

Let us

G5399

therefore

G3767

lest

G3379

being left

G2641

a promise

G1860

εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὴν κατάπαυσιν αὐτοῦ δοκῆ τις ἔξ

us of entering

G1525

into

G3588

rest

G2663

his

G846

should seem

G1380

any

G5100

of

G1537

ὑμῶν ὑστερηκέναι

you

to come short of it

G5216

G5302

Additional Cross-References

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

Hebrews 12:15 (Parallel theme): Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Hebrews 4:11 (Parallel theme): Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Proverbs 28:14 (Parallel theme): Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

Hebrews 13:7 (Parallel theme): Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

2 Timothy 2:13 (Parallel theme): If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Romans 3:23 (Parallel theme): For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 11:20 (Parallel theme): Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

1 Corinthians 10:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Numbers 14:34 (Covenant): After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org