

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	therefore	lest	being left	a promise			
G5399	G3767	G3379	G2641	G1860			
εἰσελθεῖν	εἰς	τὴν	κατάπαυσιν	αὐτοῦ	δοκῇ	τις	ἐξ
us of entering	into	G3588	rest	his	should seem	any	of
G1525	G1519		G2663	G846	G1380	G5100	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.

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