

Hebrews 4:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

'We which have believed do enter into rest' indicates rest is both present possession and future consummation. The quote from Psalm 95:11 shows God's rest existed before Israel's failure, stemming from creation itself (verse 4). Unbelief excludes from rest, while faith grants entrance into experiential peace with God even now.

Historical Context

The works being finished 'from the foundation of the world' points to God's eternal plan and completed creation rest. Christ later announced 'It is finished' (John 19:30), completing redemption.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Are you experiencing the soul rest that comes from ceasing your own efforts and trusting Christ?
2. How does entering God's rest affect your anxiety and striving?

Interlinear Text

εἰσελεύσονται	γὰρ	εἰς	τῶν	κατάπαυσίν	τῶν		
do enter	For	into	we which	rest	we which		
G1525	G1063	G1519	G3588	G2663	G3588		
πιστεύσαντες	καθὼς	εἶρηκεν	Ὡς	ὥμοσα	ἐν	τῶν	
have believed	as	he said	As	I have sworn	in	we which	
G4100	G2531	G2046	G5613	G3660	G1722	G3588	
ὀργῇ	μου	Εἰ	εἰσελεύσονται	εἰς	τῶν	κατάπαυσίν	μου
wrath	my	if	do enter	into	we which	rest	my
G3709	G3450	G1487	G1525	G1519	G3588	G2663	G3450
καίτοι	τῶν	ἔργων	ἀπὸ	καταβολῆς	κόσμου		
although	we which	the works	from	the foundation	of the world		
G2543	G3588	G2041	G575	G2602	G2889		
γεννηθέντων							
were finished							
G1096							

Additional Cross-References

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

1 Peter 1:20 (Parallel theme): Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Genesis 1:31 (Parallel theme): And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Hebrews 9:26 (Parallel theme): For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Ephesians 1:4 (Parallel theme): According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Hebrews 3:11 (Judgment): So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

Isaiah 28:12 (Parallel theme): To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

Exodus 20:11 (Parallel theme): For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Matthew 13:35 (Parallel theme): That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Hebrews 3:14 (Parallel theme): For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;