

Hebrews 4:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

Analysis

The logic: since rest remains available, and the original generation failed to enter through disobedience, the promise extends to subsequent generations. The Greek 'apoleleitai' (remains) indicates ongoing availability. Reformed covenant theology sees this as demonstrating the unity of God's redemptive purpose across testaments - the gospel was preached to them (4:2), but only those with faith benefit from it.

Historical Context

This argument would resonate with Jewish Christians who might think salvation was limited to ancient Israel. The author shows God's purpose to bring many into rest continues beyond the original generation.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's persistent offer of rest despite human failure demonstrate His grace?
2. What is the relationship between the 'rest' offered to Israel and the rest offered in Christ?

Interlinear Text

ἐπεὶ	οὖν	ἀπολείπεται	τινὰς	εἰσῆλθον	εἰς	αὐτήν
Seeing	therefore	it remaineth	that some	entered	therein	G846
G1893	G3767	G620	G5100	G1525	G1519	
καὶ	οἱ	πρότερον	εὐαγγελισθέντες	οὐκ	εἰσῆλθον	
and	G3588	they to whom it was first	preached	not	entered	
G2532		G4386	G2097	G3756	G1525	
δι'	ἀπείθειαν					
because	of unbelief					
G1223	G543					

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 21:43 (Parallel theme): Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Hebrews 4:2 (Parallel theme): For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Acts 28:28 (Parallel theme): Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

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

Galatians 3:8 (Parallel theme): And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

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