

Hebrews 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

Analysis

If Joshua had given them rest, God wouldn't speak of another day later. The Greek name *Iēsous* (Jesus/Joshua) creates wordplay - Joshua couldn't give ultimate rest, but Jesus does. This demonstrates the typological principle: OT persons and events foreshadow Christ who fulfills them. Reformed theology emphasizes Christ as the substance to which OT shadows pointed (Colossians 2:17).

Historical Context

Joshua led Israel into Canaan, achieving military rest from enemies. Yet this was temporary and incomplete, pointing to the greater rest achieved by Jesus (same name, different person) through His redemptive work.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing Joshua as a type of Christ enrich your reading of the Old Testament?

2. What 'rest' has Christ provided that no earthly leader or achievement can give?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	γὰρ	αὐτοὺς	Ἰησοῦς	κατέπαυσεν	οὐκ	αν	περὶ
if	For	them	Jesus	had given	not	then would he	of
G1487	G1063	G846	G2424	G2664	G3756	G302	G4012
ἄλλης ἐλάλει μετὰ ταῦτα ἡμέρας							
another	have spoken	afterward		G5023	day		
G243	G2980	G3326			G2250		

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 1:15 (Parallel theme): Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD'S servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.

Joshua 22:4 (Parallel theme): And now the LORD your God hath given rest unto your brethren, as he promised them: therefore now return ye, and get you unto your tents, and unto the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side Jordan.

Deuteronomy 12:9 (Parallel theme): For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you.

Joshua 23:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass a long time after that the LORD had given rest unto Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua waxed old and stricken in age.

Acts 7:45 (References Jesus): Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;

Psalms 78:55 (Parallel theme): He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents.

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