

Psalm 95:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

Analysis

Unto whom I sware in my wrath (אֲשֶׁר-נִשְׁבַּעֲתִי בְּאָפִי) asher-nishba'ti be-appi)—Shaba means swear an oath; af means wrath, anger, nostrils. **That they should not enter into my rest** (אִם-יִבְאֹו אֲלֵמָנוּחָתִי) im-yevo'un el-menuchati)—Menucha means rest, resting place; the im formula is a Hebrew oath: "if they enter" means "they shall never enter."

God swore an oath in wrath (Numbers 14:21-23) that the wilderness generation wouldn't enter Canaan. "My rest" refers both to the physical land (Deuteronomy 12:9) and spiritual Sabbath-rest prefigured by it. Hebrews 4:1-11 extensively develops this, showing the ultimate rest is not Canaan but Christ—eternal salvation-rest. Unbelief excludes from rest; faith brings us in. The warning remains for Christians: don't harden your hearts and miss God's rest through unbelief.

Historical Context

Numbers 14:20-35 records God's judgment: everyone 20 years and older (except Joshua and Caleb) would die in the wilderness. Psalm 95 was written centuries later but memorializes this judgment as a perpetual warning. Hebrews applies it to the church, warning that apostasy forfeits eternal rest.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does "rest" in this verse relate to both the Promised Land and eternal salvation?
2. What does it mean that unbelief can cause you to miss God's rest even after initial rescue (like the Exodus)?
3. How does Hebrews 3-4 apply this warning to Christians regarding perseverance and apostasy?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע עַתִּי אִם בְּאָפָּי אַל בָּאֵל מִנְוָחָתִי:
unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest

H834 H7650 H639 H518 H935 H413

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 4:3 (Judgment): 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.

Numbers 14:23 (Parallel theme): Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

Hebrews 4:5 (Parallel theme): And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

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

Hebrews 3:18 (Parallel theme): And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

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.

Revelation 14:13 (Parallel theme): And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Jeremiah 6:16 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

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