

# Hebrews 4

## Review of Hebrews 1-3

- Describe the style of writing in *Hebrews*: Many Old Testament references, long beautiful sentences, quotes from the LXX
- Review the four theories of authorship...
- Theme: Christ is better than the Old Covenant
- Possible date: 64 A.D.

**Chapter 1 – Theme** – Christ is better than the angels

**Chapter 2 – One purpose of the death of Jesus?** He had to taste death and experience what humans go through

**Chapter 3 – With whom is Jesus compared?** Moses

- Was Moses a good man? Yes
- How do Moses and Jesus compare? Christ was the architect and builder
- Who owns the “house”? God
- What role did Moses play in the “house”? A servant
- Jesus? Owner's son
- What section of the Old Testament is quoted from? *Psalm 95*
- Describe the behavior of the Jews in the Old Testament? Always stubborn and rebellious
- What happened to them because of their disobedience? Their bodies fell in the wilderness
- How would a Jewish reader feel at end of *Hebrews 3*? At least more cautious

**Theme of Hebrews 4:** The First Century Jewish Christians were making the same mistake in rejecting God's son (the Messiah)

## Hebrews 4.1-5

**V1 – “Therefore” - What conclusion can be gathered from Heb. 3?** Danger of falling away

- Why should we be afraid? Lest...we might miss salvation
- How is the church described as a “rest”? Place of peace (people have been known to sleep in church! – not all bad – at least they feel at peace)
- Meaning of “*come short of it*”? To miss it

**V2 – Have we had good news preached to us today?** Yes

- What about Jews? Yes, the manna in wilderness, quail, the 10 Commandments, Levitical laws, etc.
- Is hearing the word enough? No
- We have visitors every Sunday who hear the word, but who then ignore it
- Hearing must be “united” by faith

**V3 – Has God finished the creation of the world?** Yes

- In other words, God is “resting” (in a sense)
- How do we enter that rest? Believing and obeying

**V 4** – "Somewhere" - interesting

-**Why didn't he tell them where the passage was?** Maybe he didn't want them to be flipping through their Bibles – he wanted them to listen very carefully

**V 5** – **Theme of v 1-5?** Because of Jew's disobedience, they did not go into God's "approval"

-In other words, eventually they were led into captivity

-Notice quotes from *Psalm 95* (as in *Heb. 3* also)

## **Hebrews 4.6-13**

**V 6** – Very interesting

-**"Those who formerly..."** = Jews

-**Why did they fail to enter it?** Disobedience

**V 7** – Jews missed the first opportunity to obey God

-**What has God done then?** Fixed a second opportunity to obey him

-**When is the second opportunity?** "Today"

-**When should a person obey the gospel?** Today (without delay)

-**Does a person have to be baptized in worship service?** No

-Philippian jailer - 2:00 am

-Ethiopian treasurer - riding in chariot

-Lydia - Saturday morning

-3000 on day of Pentecost - Sunday morning

-A person should obey the gospel whenever he is ready

-**Advice of v 7?** Obey now - don't harden your heart

**V 8-9** – Joshua prophesied about a rest

**V 9** – The rest is the New Testament (or it could also be a reference to heaven)

-To keep the Jews from going back to the Old Testament and Moses = the "rest" is not the Old Testament, but the New Testament

**V 10** – **Can we enter that rest now?** Yes

**V 11** – **How can we miss it or lose it?** Disobedience

**V 12** – **With what is the Word compared?** Two edged sword

-**Why?** Cuts both ways

-**Point?** We can't bluff God - he knows our level of obedience

-**What will judge us in the Last Day?** The Word

**V 13** - We can fool other people, but not God

-God knows if we are "dragging our feet" in His kingdom

**Hebrews 4.14-16** - Three beautiful sentences! A summary of *chapters 1-4*

**V14** – Description of Jesus? Great High Priest

-Meaning: "*passed through the heavens*"? He has ascended to the Father

-"**Our confession**" = "I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God"

-Writer: Be faithful to that confession!

**V15** – Why is Jesus better than a typical priest? He was tempted, but did not give in to sin

**V16** – Therefore, be faithful and accept grace of God

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