

- the writer gives a continuation of his thought from ch.3 but turns from the consequences of Israel's unbelief to the nature of the rest they forfeited
- vs.1- "fear"- (phobeo) to be alarmed or cautious of something
 - "left"- (kataleipo) to leave behind, to forsake, to depart
- "His rest"- also "My rest" (Ps.95:11) the meaning of the word is a calming or settling
 - (The idea here is a settling down with God and living totally reliant and dependant on Him)
 - the term is also used in the Greek for "colonization"
- in the Old Test., Canaan signified rest for Israel- in the New, Jesus is our rest- Matt.11:28
 - (The opposite of rest is unbelief as it is the one thing that prohibits one from rest)
- Truth- in Ps.95, the land of promise was more than just a piece of territory
 - (It was indicative of God's promise to Abraham- Gen.12:7)
- the land of Canaan is a foreshadowing of God's plan of salvation as when one enters, he/she is given rest (unbelief is what keeps one out of His rest just as it did at Canaan)
- "come short"- the recipients of this letter knew all too well about Israel's history of this
 - (The whole idea of this verse is to warn them not to make the same mistake and miss out)
- vs.2- "gospel preached"- (euangelizo) to bring good news or glad tidings
 - *in an Old Test. references as here, the phrase means good news of any kind- Num.14:7-9
 - "did not profit them"- Why? The rest of the verse answers this (look also in Num.14:10-11)
 - (They had to trust God's plan to enter and they didn't even after everything God had done for them previously)
- in the day the letter of Hebrews was written, God had just previously sent His Son into the world to die for them, destroy sin, and offer rest to them yet again
 - (The readers had to trust God's plan of rest just like Israel had to when they were at Canaan)
- vs.3- the answer to fear and failure is faith
 - *notice the believer does not work to enter rest, he simply has to believe God
 - "if they shall enter"- this is similar to 3:11 but the word "not" isn't included and the word "if" is used here
 - in 3:11, the context was of Israel in the O.T. and had already come to pass
 - (Here, it still hangs in the balance on whether the readers will fully commit to Christ)
 - "works"- God had to do miracles for Israel only for them to turn and not trust Him
 - *for us, a miraculous work was done (Calvary) for us to have rest
 - "foundation"- the start or beginning of something
 - *keep in mind- God has foreknowledge (Rom.8:29, Acts 2:23, I Pet.1:2)
- Truth- God knew man would fail before He even created us
 - *but God wanted us and even after mankind defied Him, He still wants us
 - (This is why redemption was planned from the beginning- Gen.3:15)
- Remember- God gave mankind free will because He desires to be loved by His creation
 - (Love is a voluntary action)
- vs.4- "certain place"- the writer here is talking about Creation and how God rested on the 7th day
 - *He was satisfied with His work and instituted that day to be observed as a memorial
 - (This is why the Jews worshiped on the Sabbath- aka- 7th day)
 - *God rested because His work was finished
- vs.5- "in this place again"- meaning the place prepared by God
 - *the original Eden and then the Promised Land- both foreshadows of the land of eternal rest
- vs.6- "remaineth"- meaning that it has yet to be fulfilled
- Truth- God offered rest to His people in Moses' day (Rom.10:21)
 - He still patiently offers rest to those who will trust Him, His Word, and His finished Work
 - "first preached"- this refers to the "good news" Caleb spoke but they failed to believe it