

While we are waiting to begin the lesson please
Complete EXERCISE one on page one and two of your hand
outs.

Hebrews: a Bible Study

Lesson Five

Liberty Towers Church
Men's Bible Study
Just Larry

Better

Our
Path

- Nothing inferior to Jewish religion
- The best became better in Jesus

The message of God as found
in the Bible is two things:
**REVELATION AND
RECONCILIATION**

• Better encouragement of God's Message 12:1-13:22

Admonitions

Hebrews 4:1

Key
Verse

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.

Our focus for tonight Hebrews 3:16-19, 4:1-13

Focus

- Message of Hebrews - same as the rest of the Bible
 - Message of God in Revelation - God revealing Himself
 - Message of God in Reconciliation - God providing a path to Him
- SHABATH, SABBOT, SABBATH,
- REST,
- SEVENTH DAY

Greek Philosophy

Idea #1

- Meaning "love of wisdom," it was attributed in biographical tradition which suggested that wisdom is something divine and a man cannot be truly wise but only a lover of wisdom.
- Four presuppositions of Greek Philosophy
 - Reality: The goal is not to change the world but to know it. Human reason is capable of revealing the truth.
 - Cosmos is one: You can not understand the parts of the total to understand the total. Not parts to the whole, but from the whole you understand the parts.
 - Nature of Life: It is not strife and chaos, but tranquility and equilibrium.
 - Constant: Things don't change, numbers, ideas, truth are constants.

Why Allegory and Metafor? In the Book of Hebrews?

GREEK PHLOSOPHY permeated the culture of the time

Greek teaching was all relative You had to know this before you can understand this.

Every new idea, every new teaching point had to come from existing knowledge

Can't teach Pythagorean theory with out some background in basic Algebra

Can't have an understanding of anything new without an understanding of the old

Greek philosophy was always a progression from the existing to the next
A movement from doing to knowing, Can't do anything without knowing first

A movement from the whole to the part. Have to understand the big picture before looking at the parts.

An understanding that life is designed to be one of harmony.

A movement from the experience model which was full of chaos to the perfect life of harmony through knowledge.

The times of book of Hebrews

- Life was tough
- Persecution
- Jerusalem was a hotbed of radical extremists (Zealots)
- Rome was cracking down
- Most of the Christians had left Jerusalem
- Wilderness disease.

Up to this point in our studies we have attempted to explain the better of Jesus through comparison and contrast.

Very Greek idea

But the times were very un Greek

The romans had begun to persecute Christians.

No longer on the list of accepted religions in the Empire

Greek philosophy would say moving to a Messiah of hope and tranquility would be a good thing.

The constant was not working. "How can I love my neighbor as myself if my neighbor was a roman?"

"CAN'T WE JUST GET ALONG"

Where is our rest?

REST



REST - definitions

Idea
#2

- Rest when you stop doing labor to recover strength
- To place or support so as to stay in a specific position
- A period of relaxing or ceasing to engage in strenuous or stressful activity
- An interval of silence of a specified duration
- Based upon, dependence, reliance

- Rest when you stop doing labor to recover strength (after)
 - I needed to rest after playing 2 hours of basketball with my young son
 - After reading for three hours, I needed to rest my eyes.
- To place or support so as to stay in a specific position
 - I rested my arm on the couch because I knew the movie would take a long time.
 - I rested my hand on the shoulder of the sad woman who had lost her son.
- A period of relaxing or ceasing to engage in strenuous or stressful activity (before)
 - You need to rest up you have a big day ahead of you
- An interval of silence of a specified duration
 - Music term a pause between notes
 - A pregnant pause for effect
- Based upon, dependence
 - She rested from worry when she hired the best attorney in town.
 - Ultimate security for the United States rests on the government.

God's concept of Rest
Idea #3

- God built all the universe in six days then RESTED.
 - Why?
 - Was God tired?
 - Was God resting to get ready for something else?
 - Did God run out of power to do something more?
 - Did God need to rest?
- What was God's rest
 - Rest from creation, cessation of the process
- Sabbath (SHABATH) to stop
 - It is simply to stop and smell the roses
 - It is an acknowledgment of the completeness of God's work in our lives
- Theory of the EIGHTH day.

Rest is the final
 crowning act of
 creation

Why even talk about God's rest?

In His 7th day did He stop holding it all together?

In His 7th day did He stop everything and just went to sleep?

Language of the Bible is written by men to speak to men. Fully inspired, fully enlightened, fully to be understood

Uses words to describe God that man would understand.

God Rested

God repented

God forgot

Understood in human terms but not in divine perspective

FOR GOD TO REST ON THE 7TH DAY WAS A HUMAN PICTURE OF A DIVINE ACTION OF COMPLETION.

For God to rest on the 7th day was not because he was in need of a quick nap

For God to rest on the 7th day was not because He needed to charge his cell phone to keep on going.

God's example was a time a period of cessation of creation to GLORY in it all.

The Seventh day was a day of hope, expectation, joy, peace, triumph, "IT WAS GOOD", VERY GOOD" It needed nothing more.

The SHABATH STOP could not be about being tired

The SHABATH STOP could not be getting ready, renewal of strength

The SHABATH STOP was about completion. It was a time of saying it is enough.

THAT first SHABATH STOP for God is the rest of eternity

Please tell me that I am way off.

That seventh day was made holy. That seventh day is the time from the sixth day until the end

When God creates again the new heaven and the new earth.

The seventh day is the pause.

All other time periods are based on the celestial bodies

Moon changing is how we get our months ~29 days

Sun the cycle is 24 hours

Further the sun sets our 365 day year.

But it is GOD who sets the week.....

And focus on what God has done

We do church.- but is it a stop and glory in the works of God

Or is it another list of do's and don'ts

REST for the nation under Moses

Idea
#4

Was the rest of Moses a rest from something?
For the Israelites it was a stopping of one thing BRICKS.
Land of milk and honey.
"Ain't goin to work no more, ain't goin to work no more!
The rest of Moses was interpreted as a promise of leisure.
Of manna for every pot
Of numerous birds for meat.
Water that is always available.

The world says do do do do do

Conditions in Egypt

Slavery No choice to get up and go to work. Had to or you would get beat or branded, or killed

Egypt was all about bricks

BRICKS, BRICKS, BRICKS

Work work work

For the powers to be it was all about the bottom line.

To continue in power you had to do all this self promotion

Your ability to rule was in direct relationship to the size of the

building you built

Everything was about bricks and the size and

speed of the process of bricks

Whips and chains

Faster and faster

Don't walk, run

If you don't go fast enough whack.....

You didn't push your stone up the hill as you thought appropriate. You pushed with all your might, all your strength, all your mind.

The concept of the seventh day was to make it holy. EXODUS 2:1-2

It was a stop before the next creation act. At time dedicated to holiness, a time dedicated to being not doing.

THE REST for the nation under MOSES only saw a time for leisure

Their rest was a stop from slavery

What they missed was the purpose for the stop.

Rest for the people

Idea
#5

- The wilderness for the Israelites was a STOP **from**
 - The time of slavery was over
 - The time of bricks and labor was over
 - "You have deserved a vacation for a long time."
- The wilderness for the Israelites should have been a STOP to **BE**
- The rest of God was to STOP
- The rest of the people in the wilderness was a STOP first then
 - To BE the household
 - To BE the people of God
 - To BE holy

The rest for the Israelites was seen as leisure

The rest for the Israelites was "I have done my time and now it is the week end..

But that rest was not what God expected for them

It was to be a time of reflection and introspection

It was to be a time of preparing hearts

It was to be a time of building the household

It was to be a time of living in the SEVENTH DAY OF GOD

AND THEY MISSED the purpose.

Hebrews in Christ's time

- Waiting for the rest
- It was just around the corner
- It will come
- When the Romans give up
- When the Messiah comes
- The people, the household will get their rest.

Waiting for the rest

It was just around the corner

It will come

When the Romans give up

When the Messiah comes

The people, the household will get their rest.

They were looking for the REST of Israel. Of manna and great leadership

The restoration of the kingdom of David

The rest desired by the Hebrew Christians

- Still had all the turmoil of the time
 - Persecution
 - Deportation
- But no real rest.
 - (last week = Hearts were hard, going astray, unbelieving)
 - Live as a Christian was hard work, being a Hebrew and a Christian
- Just like all their ancestors they could not just stop
 - Stop and be holy
 - Stop and be God's people
 - Stop and simply live a life which was full of God

Still had all the turmoil of the time

Persecution

Deportation

But no real rest.

(last week = Hearts were hard, going astray, unbelieving)

Live as a Christian was hard work, being a Hebrew and a Christian

Because just like all their ancestors they could not just stop

Stop and be holy

Stop and be God's people

Stop and simply live a life which was full of God

The promise of a rest still stands!

Idea
#6

Chapter 4:1

Therefore, since the promise of entering HIS rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found having fallen short of it.

The preacher was crying out to the Hebrew Christians JUST STOP. SHABATH

Salvation is when we simply stop and hear (Revelation) and rest in God (Restoration)

REST is a mental and spiritual attitude

It is not dependent upon external factors of tiredness or preparation

It is not something you prepare for like a scheduled vacation

Leisure in of itself is not rest

I will take a nap

I will sit in the sun

All the while worrying about work

REST is an internal thing

For the Hebrews of the OT it was all about the stopping of work

The end of slavery

for them EGYPT give me a break

Give me a life of rest for rest sake.

Jesus is better

It is a stop
thing

Therefore...

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.

This long portion of scripture Chapter 3:16 through 4:13 is the cure for the issues of Moses found in Chapter 3 talking about the heart, the house and Moses.

Chapter 3

- 3:1 Fix your thoughts... a STOP thing
- 3:6 Hold firmly to the confidence in the hope which we glory.... A STOP thing
- 3:7 Hear his voice A STOP thing
- 3:11 Know his ways..... A STOP thing
- 3:13 Encourage one another.... A STOP thing
- 3:14 Share Christ among the breatheren..... A STOP thing
- 3:15 Hear his voice to keep our hearts soft.... A STOP thing

THE REST is the TEST

Idea #7

- The Hebrews the SHABATH was about rest from work
- The rest of God is a constant attitude of peace, joy, freedom, celebration.
 - It is not a do thing
 - It is a STOP thing
- It is a heart thing, a soul thing.
- It is not a stopping of effort to justify my relationship with God.
- Every time you see the words REST and SABBATH think STOP

Matthew 11:28,29 – Take my yoke ... I will give you rest.

HEBREW CHRISTIANS were now struggling with going back to the life
Giving it all up and just rest in the old ways
Being a Hebrew was all about tradition and promises.
They wanted REST but the only rest most of them had was the REST that was
exemplated in the Wilderness.

That rest did not work for the wilderness Hebrews, ANYMORE THAN THE
REST OF THE SHABATH OF THE CURRENT TIMES.

The preacher here is making a case for something much more. The rest spoken of here was
a rest of the heart.

A rest of the soul.

Hebrew Day of atonement. All pomp and ceremony, bought a blessing to the people.
It was a great time. The shedding of blood to cleanse from all sins. Once a year. The feeling
of the people for that moment was one of rest

God was appeased, God was pleased, God did his part according to the law

There was joy in the house

But it had to be done over and over and over

Because of each year sins would mount up, like garbage filling the hearts of
man.

Each sin, each time of falling short of God’s revealed will put a shadow on the
hearts of the people

There would be less and less joy in the house each day
Logic here would simply make this sacrifice more often
More sacrifice of perfect lambs more joy in the house.
WHY NOT every morning one more bleeding lamb
Why not ever evening another bleeding lamb.
More blood more joy, more peace, more rest.

The preacher of Hebrews was simply saying the REST of the saving of Israel from the slavery
of EGYPT did not last.

The preacher of Hebrews was simply saying The REST of the well defined and dutiful
criminalized sacrificial system provided for a REST but just for that one day

THE REST IS THE TEST

JESUS said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you

will find REST for your souls.

THE REST IS THE TEST

If you are struggling at the acceptance of the Jesus life, Under the YOKE of Jesus.

Trying and squirming under that constrain. NEED TO

Consider your salvation.

IF there is no peach, joy, freedom, celebration in your life, NEED TO consider your salvation.

Sabbath REST

Idea
#7

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.

LET US, THEREFORE, MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENTER THAT REST, SO THAT NO ONE WILL PERISH BY FOLLOWING THEIR EXAMPLE OF DISOBEDIENCE.

Real cool part is that this Sabbath Rest is not just one day.....

The basking in the light of God's word and God's grace, and God hope, and God's creation, and God's majesty, and honor and praise

STARTS with a STOP

Here is a promise. God can't take it back

Hebrew Christians were full of turmoil, strife, pain, uncertainty, reluctance, fear,

There was no rest.

Like their nation, still waiting for the rest of Moses

And missing the rest of Jesus

They saw it as something without value

For we also have the good news (gospel), just as they did,

But the message they heard was of NO VALUE to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed.

NOW WE WHO HAVE BELIEVED ENTER THAT REST, JUST AS GOD HAS SAID.

EVERY TIME . From now on when you hear or see or talk about the sabbath. THINK STOP.....REST.....

The closest definition in our exercise for rest is E silence. A pause between notes in a musical score. .

If what you call sabbath does not include a STOP then you are missing it just like the Hebrews.

Application - Sabbath REST

Idea
#7

There remains, then, a STOP for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's STOP also STOPS from their works, just as God did from his.

LET US, THEREFORE, MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENTER THAT STOP, SO THAT NO ONE WILL PERISH BY FOLLOWING THEIR EXAMPLE OF DISOBEDIENCE.

The REST of God

- We have heard the message from the prophets
- We learned about Angels and God moments
- We were to create in our lives a laser focus on Jesus
- We were encouraged to become Encouragement of the brethren
- Today....If you are struggling in keeping up appearances
 - Stop
 - Accept God's STOPPAGE to BE HOLY
 - Bask in the glory of God and be thankful.
 - HIS yoke is easy.....
 - 3:7 Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts
 - The promise of REST still remains

The need for God's rest is urgent.

We must diligently and with intense purpose slam on the brakes and stop

Can't work our way into heaven

But rest can

Be still and know that God is. Revelation

Be still and be renewed Reconciliation.

Equipped with the right tools and bible studies we can learn a lot.

But when it really counts we simply must STOP all the study of history and language and syntax, and theological ramifications

Of omnipotence as it relates to omniscience.

But you have to stop first.

Just stop and read your bible.

For

Stop, Rest, Read, Repeat.

• For the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing the soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must account.