

CHRIST IS SUPERIOR TO MOSES

Aim of the Lesson: To receive the blessings of Christ in salvation rest, service rest and eternal rest.

I. BELIEVERS ARE ADDRESSED – 3:1, 6, 14

“Holy brethren” [3:1]: they made holy in God’s sight when they received Jesus as their Savior.

“Partakers of the heavenly calling” [3:1]: they were made citizens of Christ’s Kingdom.

[Partakers of Christ – 3:14; partakers of the Holy Spirit – 6:4; and partakers of God’s chastening – 12:8] Christ Jesus was their “confession” and “confidence” [3:1, 6, 14]. He was their Savior and certainty of it.

II. CHRIST SUPERIOR TO MOSES – 3:1-14

CHRIST

Apostle [sent by the Father] – 3:1
Was faithful to God – 3:2

COMPARED

APOSTLE
FAITHFUL

MOSES

Apostle [sent by God] – Ex 3:10-15
Was faithful in God’s house – 3:2

CONTRASTED

Was the builder of God’s house – 3:3-4
Was the Son over God’s house – 3:6
Gives rest – 3:1, 6, 14; see 4:14

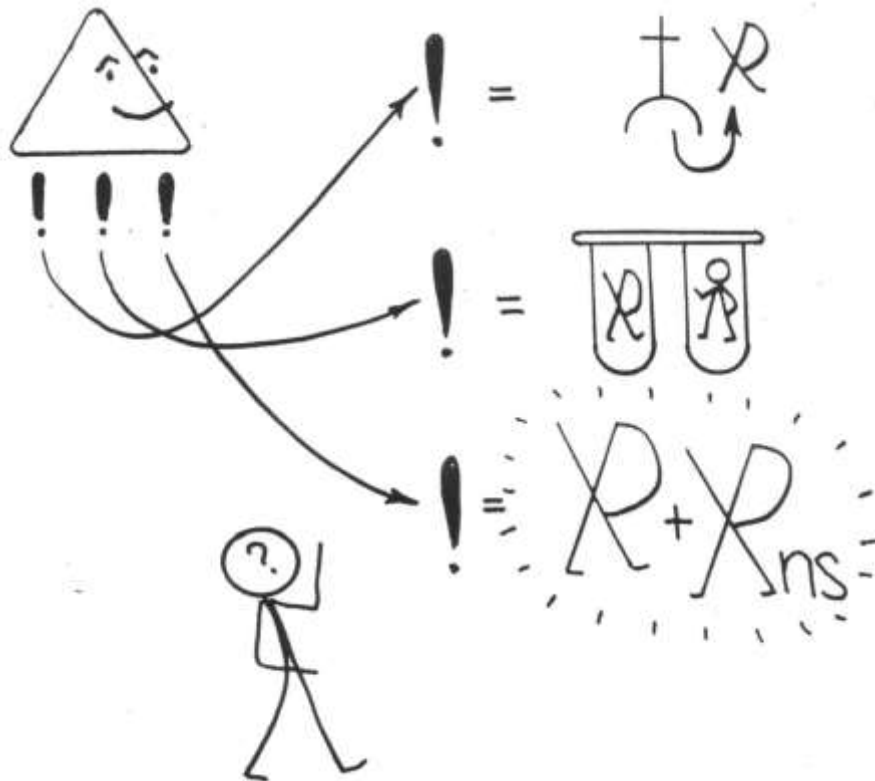
BUILDER < > HOUSE
SON < > SERVANT
REST < > NO REST

Was part of God’s house – 3:3
Was a servant in God’s house – 3:5
Could not give rest – 3:16-19

SECOND APPEAL – 3:7-4:13: “Do not forfeit the promise of God’s rest”

WE DOUBT GOD’S WORD

Hebrews 3:7-4:13



WHEN WE FORFEIT THE PROMISE OF HIS REST

By doubting God’s Word, believers forfeit the blessed rest of Christ’s peace in salvation, of Christ’s power in service and of Christ’s praise and rewards in His Kingdom.

III. EXPLANATION OF REST

- **Rest is not an end of all work** – God's miracles and providence prove that He is still active [John 5:17]
- **Rest is the completion of a task that is done well, which brings the worker satisfaction and joy.**

IV. HINDRANCES TO A BELIEVER'S REST

- **Hebrews 3:7-11** – God does not want believers to harden their hearts in **rebellion** (provocation) against His promises or bitterly **complain** when trials (temptations) come like the Israelites did in the wilderness for 40 years. They saw God's gracious works, but that did not change their hearts. So God took an oath in His wrath against their rebellion and resolved they would not enter His rest in Canaan.
- **Hebrews 3:12-15** – Rest is not mentioned in these verses, but it is implied when the brethren were to beware of an evil heart of **unbelief** in "departing from the living God." Departing from God means they were departing from God's rest in salvation. This warning is for those "brethren" that entertained doubts about salvation in Jesus Christ. The believers were to exhort (encourage) one another with truth to defeat the deceitfulness of sin that would harden the hearts of "brethren" not fully committed to Christ. True believers *have become* partakers of Christ (*perfect tense verb, which means the past decision of a believer continues indefinitely*). Believers prove it by holding their confidence in Him firm to the end.
- **Hebrews 3:16-19** – Three questions are asked to show which Israelites could not enter their rest in Canaan. Verse 16 has the first question. It should read, "When they had heard, who did provoke (God)?" Was it not all that came out of Egypt with Moses? The second question asks, "With whom was God grieved forty years? Was it not with them that sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? The third question asks, Who did God make an oath that they should not enter into His rest, but to them that **did not believe**? So these Israelites could not enter their rest in Canaan because of **unbelief**.
- **Hebrews 4:1-3** – Believers must have a reverent fear of God and not think that they have come short of His promise of rest in salvation by faith in Christ. The gospel preached to them was also preached to the Israelites, but it did not profit them since they did not mix it with faith. But those that believe *are entering* into this rest (*present indicative verb, meaning believers are entering their rest in salvation now*). The Israelites were denied God's rest in Canaan and rest in salvation by their **unbelief**, even though the works for salvation was finished from the foundation of the world.
- **Hebrews 4:4-6** – Two Old Testament verses are given to prove that the Israelites that left Egypt did not receive rest in salvation. The first refers to God's rest from creation works on the seventh day (Gen 2:2). How does this relate to salvation? God's creation was good. Adam and Eve enjoyed His rest until they disobeyed Him. God provided a plan of salvation for them and all believers so they can enjoy His original rest with Adam and Eve. However, the Israelites that came out of Egypt did not believe Him, so He said, "They shall not enter My rest" (Ps 95:11). Some enter God's rest, but others cannot enter due to **unbelief**.
- **Hebrews 4:7-9** – God told David that His promise of rest was still available "today" if they would hear His voice. That was 400 years after Joshua took the Israelites to their rest in Canaan. God's rest is more than rest in Canaan; it is rest in salvation. This rest is still offered to the people of God.
- **Hebrews 4:10** – Who does the "he" in this verse refer to? Some say it refers to the believer that has entered into his salvation rest and ceased from his worthless or legalistic works for salvation. But how could this be possible when the last part of the verse says, "as God did from His." His creative works were not bad or worthless; they were good. Others say that "he" refers to a believer who dies, rests from his labors and his works follow him (Rev 14:13). This is possible, but it is more likely that it refers to Christ. He arose from the grave and ascended to His rest in Heaven. He has ceased from His good works for the salvation of all believers when He cried, "It is finished," and died on the cross.
- **Hebrews 4:11-13** – Believers need to firmly rest in Christ for salvation and for service (Mt 11:28-30). He will reward them in His Kingdom. God's word will discern the faith of a person's innermost being. He also sees every person as naked and bare so He knows when a person is truly resting in Christ to save him and to make him a good servant.