

# THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

JESUS CHRIST - THE ONE AND ONLY

THE SUPREMACY AND SUFFICIENCY OF JESUS CHRIST.  
A THEOLOGY OF REDEMPTION, ATONEMENT AND MINISTRY OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH

## Hebrews 4:1-7

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### THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

## **“On Your Mark, Get Set, Believe!”**

In everything, the book of Hebrews presents Jesus Christ as the all-sufficient and eternal priest. In all things Jesus Christ is better than Moses, than Angels, than the law, being centrality of those ministries.

### SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**rest, atonement, salvation, redemption, sanctification, justification.**

- 1) Can you know for sure that you’re going to heaven?**
- 2) How is your salvation guaranteed as an inheritance?**
- 3) What’s keeping you from taking a rest?**

### Hebrews 4:1-7

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the Gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. 3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: *“So I swore in My wrath, ‘they shall not enter My rest,’”* although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4 For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: *“And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”*; 5 and again in this place: *“They shall not enter My rest.”* 6 Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, 7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David, *“Today,”* after such a long time, as it has been said: *“Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.”*

The author of the book of Hebrews which I personally, for my reasons, believe that it is none other than Paul the apostle, draws a profound line of separation between those who believe and do not believe. He magnifies the amplitude between those that are at rest with God and those who are struggling with God.

He also makes a profound observation - - that there are particular things that obviously set the believer apart from the unbeliever when it comes to faith and their object of faith.

“Do you know the answers to the questions or are you living out the answers to the questions?”

I read recently that there is a major shift taking place in the business world regarding hiring and placement qualifications for a job. Companies and corporations are looking for people who are willing and able to be re-taught, re-trained, re-programmed out of their university or college education.

Matthew 7:20-24

Therefore, by their fruits you will know them. 21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ 24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

Hebrews Chapter 4 continues on with a powerful series of warnings against unbelief and the danger of drifting away.

Hebrews 3:7-8

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness,

Hebrews 3:14-16

For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” 16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses?

The entire book of Hebrews repeatedly draws from Old Testament Encounters and Events, most notably from the book of Exodus as they failed to put their faith in God. All but Joshua and Caleb.

Hebrews 3:17-19

Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

**Textual Observations:**

- There is a rest available for the human soul.
- This rest is totally dependent upon God.
- The rest is totally provided by God.
- There is the responsibility of human beings to “enter into” His rest.
- There is both (1) a grave warning and (2) a beautiful exhortation to enter in.
- There is a correlation or typological connection to the 7<sup>th</sup> day of creation.
- There is the mutually desired assurance of the believer’s salvation.

**“On Your Mark, Get Set, Believe!”**

1.) Because God made you a promise

vs. 1-2

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the Gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

**“On Your Mark, Get Set, Believe!”**

Because God Made You A Promise.

1a.) A promise to offer you rest

vs. 1

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

**promise** grk: epaggelia  
a summons, a word spoken, or a covenantal promise made that cannot be broken, the word ‘epaggelia’ is greater than a contract

**remains** grk: kataleipo  
the word or instruction or communication that has been left behind or with you in possession, to leave behind supplies, aid or assistance, to leave with, or alongside of a traveling companion.

John 14:25-27

“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

**entering** grk: eiserchomai;  
to go in (to), to enter, arose, came, came in, came into, come, come in, come into, comes in, comes into, coming in, enter, entered, entering, enters, go, go in, go in, go into, gone, reached, went, went in

**rest** grk: katapausis;  
to rest as in having finished fully,

This rest, contrary to many who will teach otherwise, is not the rest we enjoy now as the children of God – this is the rest that is coming to us at the end of our lives. This is what awaits us.

*“Thou movest us to delight in praising Thee; for Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in Thee.”*

- Augustine of Hippo

## Verse 1

let us fear

First let me say that this word fear is not a debilitating, crippling and destructive fear. This is the type of fear that is reverential. It is an awe inspiring fear. It is the jaw dropping moment that overcomes us when we learn or see or experience something so grand and infinitely beyond us, that we must humbly and willfully bow down our faces to the earth in worship.

**fear** grk: phobeo  
to held by a respectable terror, filled with awe.

1 Corinthians 10:12-14

Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. 14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

## Verse 1

let us fear lest any of you **seem** to have come short of it.

**seem** grk: dokeo  
inclined, or leaning, the recognizing of a deviation or drifting.

The word here “seem” has the meaning that every true follower of Jesus’ must make every effort to avoid even the appearance of failing, quitting, surrendering, giving up on your witness.

**This “Come Short” is a graphic thought.**

Meaning; “to come to the edge of a good thing and halts.” It means that Israel got right up to the boarder of the Promised Land and stopped.

Matthew 9:9

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.

Matthew 4:18-20

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

**“On Your Mark, Get Set, Believe!”**  
Because God Made You A Promise.

1b.) A promise to reach you with the Gospel

vs. 2a

2a For indeed the Gospel was preached to us as well as to them;

**This is a terrifying verse.**

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

**“On Your Mark, Get Set, Believe!”**  
Because God Made You A Promise.

1c.) A promise to tell you the truth

vs. 2b

2b but the word which they heard did not profit them,  
not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

The Truth is – There are Consequences for every decision we make.  
God created you with the capacity to make decisions.  
He gave you the ability to *“weight out your options”*, to *“count the costs”*,  
to *“look into it”*, to *“think it over.”*

Note The Urgency Here:

When the Gospel given properly, and it is Heard understandably then the  
hearer is to decide to believe or not to believe.

**read the fine print please.**

*True biblical belief will bring you to the place of saving faith.*  
*“Believing” in Jesus Christ only - falls short and is not itself “Faith”.*  
*True belief takes you to real faith and real faith will be visibly witnessed and*  
*experienced by others around you.*

**profit**

grk: ophleo

did not do, was not effectual, did not benefit, did not transform,  
had no value or effect. having never taken root.

### Paul’s Ministry at Antioch

Acts 13:46-48

Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us: *“I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.”* 48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Ephesians 1:11-13

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

## Turn in your Bibles to...

### Matthew 13:1-23

On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. 2 And great multitudes were gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. 3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. 8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" 10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" 11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: "Hearing you will hear and shall not understand and seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.' 16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; 17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. 18 "Therefore hear the parable of the Sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. 20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. 22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. 23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

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*End of Study*

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