

THERE IS A FUTURE REST—**AFTER** THE BATTLE IS DONE!

TEXT: Joshua 1:13-18

INTRODUCTION: What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word “*rest*.”

For the laborer, rest is being done working at the end of a long, hard day.

For the mother of small children, rest is peace and quiet because the little ones are now sleeping.

For the soldier, rest is a place where the weapons are set aside and there is no threat of the enemy.

For the traveler, rest is reaching the final destination.

For the sick in body, rest is the restoration of health; the relief from physical ailment and pain.

For the troubled of mind, rest is a removal of that which is bothering or confusing or emotionally hurting us

For the troubled of heart, rest is relief from guilt and the assurance that all is well between us and God

Is that all there is to rest? Is it just an end to something that is difficult or that we don't like? Is it just the end of the battle for a Soldier...or the end of the work day for the laborer ...or reaching the destination for the traveler....or having a quiet house if you're a mom....or being pain-free if you are sick?

A. First, let's consider....“What is rest?”

--Notice again the last part of 15: “then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and **enjoy it**, which Moses the Lord's servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.”

i. Rest is not just the **end** of something difficult—it is the **enjoyment of our gifts from God**

ii. True rest is **eternal enjoyment in heaven with God**

Hebrews 4:9 reminds us that “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.” What will that rest look like in heaven?

No crying, no death; No failure, no fear;

No pain—and no problems; God wipes every tear.

No sickness, no sadness; No darkness, no night;

But Jesus our Savior—and our faith, now sight!

(KAM; 2 Feb 18)

Heavenly rest also includes being **rewarded** for our labors.

--As our Creator, we ought to serve Him with no reward because we are the “created”

“We are unprofitable servants; we have done that which was our duty to do” (Lk 17:10)

--As our Redeemer, we ought to serve Him w/no reward because He died for us to rescue us from hell

“For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's” (IC6:20)

--He made us...and saved us...and puts within us the Holy Spirit that gives us the desire and the ability to serve Him—then rewards us for doing what we ought to do!

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Phil 2:13)

B. Second, when is it **time** to rest?

--In verses 12 and 13, Joshua reminds the 2-1/2 tribes that just because they had **their** land from God and it seems like it would be a good time to rest, it was still not **their** time to rest—they had to “pass before their brethren armed...and help them” (v 14).

Rest comes after the battle—or work—is done!

--vss 14-15: "ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them; **Until** the Lord have given your brethren rest, as He hath given you, and they have possessed the land which the Lord your God hath given them: **then** ye shall return..."

What is rest? Enjoyment of our gifts from God here on earth and eternal enjoyment with God in heaven.
When is rest? After the battle is done.

C. Third, who gets to rest?

i. Those men who fought the battle

We know from verse 14 that Joshua is addressing the armed men—"all the mighty men of valor"—when he speaks of them returning to the land of their possession to rest. Not a surprise that those who endured the battle would get to enjoy the rest that followed. Were they the only ones? Would no one else enjoy the blessing of rest?

ii. The women and children who stayed behind

--We know from Numbers, chapter 1, that Hebrew men began serving in the military when they reached the age of 20. Not sure of the military retirement age because the Bible does not say, but some speculate it was 50 years old—the same age priests would "retire."

--Regardless if there were older men around or not, whoever was doing the work in the absence of the fighting men would get to rest when the soldiers came home!

Aren't you glad that the blessings of heaven—the future rest for the people of God—are not reserved for just the "fighting men," whoever we might consider them to be?

EVERY child of God will enjoy the blessing of no more crying, failure, guilt or pain;

EVERY child of God will have a body fashioned like unto His glorious body;

And EVERY child of God will be welcomed home by Jesus—the one who loves them & gave Himself for them!

Not **all** would be partakers of this rest, however—

iii. The disobedient miss out on rest

Notice verse 18—"Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death." The Reubenites and Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh had made a promise to God—and to their brethren—that they would help them in their battle just as they had been helped. There would be no defectors; those that would disobey would be put to death.

We obviously don't operate that way in the physical sense—"serve God or we kill you"—but there is a spiritual application here that we dare not miss and it is this: **Not everyone goes to heaven**

It is incredibly sad to me that some churches—and the leaders of them—teach that EVERYONE will go to heaven when **Jesus said** on multiple occasions that the opposite is true!

Mt 7:13-14 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction and **many there be** that go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and **few there be** that find it."

Mt 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven"

John 3:3 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 5:40 Probably the saddest words in all the Bible: “And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”

CLOSING THOUGHTS AND APPLICATIONS

1. Are you a person of God; a child of God? Will you be a participant in heavenly rest—or will you be left out?
2. Are you thankful—and enjoying—the gifts God gives you?
3. Are you faithfully fulfilling your role in the battle? Will you hear, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant” when you are welcomed home by Jesus?