**Lesson Four**

[**Hebrews 4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4&t=NKJV)

**Review: What is Hebrews all about?**

[**Hebrews 1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1&t=NKJV) describes the coming reign of Christ over the world.

[Hebrews 1:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.1-2&t=NKJV) sets the pattern for the book:

The book of Hebrews is a comparison between the fathers (mostly Israel) and believers of the church age – you and me.

**Listen to the comparison:**

*God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,*

*has in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.* ([Hebrews 1:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.1-2&t=NKJV))

Then the author of Hebrews uses seven Old Testament Psalm to give us an overview of the coming age: [Psalm 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+2.7&t=NKJV), [Psalm 97:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+97.7&t=NKJV), [Psalm 45:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+45.6&t=NKJV), [Psalm 45:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+45.7&t=NKJV), [Psalm 102:25-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+102.25-27&t=NKJV) and [Psalm 110:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+110.1&t=NKJV).

**Then:**

God will again [second coming] bring Christ Jesus into the world to rule with a righteous scepter.

We are told He will have companions to assist Him in this rule. They will be anointed with the Oil of Gladness [for ruling.]

His rule will continue, though Heaven and Earth will become old and will have to be replaced. "**His years will not come to an end**."

Angels will worship and serve Him and will also render service to those who are on the track to be co-heirs -- "Those who will inherit salvation [fruit bearers / overcomers] ([Revelation 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2&t=NKJV); [3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3&t=NKJV))."

[**Hebrews 2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2&t=NKJV) – Tells us to pay close attention to what we have heard in regards to this Great Salvation, lest we drift away from it. We won't escape if we neglect so Great Salvation.

Israel neglected, transgressed and was disobedient to God's Word to them and they did [and still are] receive God's just recompense.

**(Compare "the reward of the inheritance" in** [**Colossians 3:23-25**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+3.23-25&t=NKJV)**)**

[Hebrews 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2&t=NKJV) also tells that even now God and Jesus are bringing "many saints to Glory" through trial and suffering, and Jesus the Captain/Author of salvation has been made the Perfect Captain, *e.g*. through the suffering He endured [suffering precedes Glory]. (Compare [Romans 8:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.17&t=NKJV))

[**Hebrews 3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3&t=NKJV) – Tells us since we aspire to be companions with Christ in heavenly calling, we should consider carefully Jesus as **apostle** and **high priest** of our confession.

As **Apostle**, consider all He did, said and accomplished at His first coming.

As **High Priest**, consider what He is doing now in His office of High Priest to assist us in successfully completing our course/race.

[Hebrews 3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3&t=NKJV) also sets forth the House of Moses as compared to the House of Christ.

Moses was faithful as a servant over His house, faithful to bring the nation of Israel out of bondage in Egypt though the Red Sea, through the wilderness to the border of Canaan, then forty years in the wilderness. **Moses was faithful**, but most of His House failed to hold fast their confidence and the rejoicing of their hope until the end.

**They neglected the calling to the Promised Canaan Land where they were to show forth the Glory of God and be a LIGHT TO THE NATIONS.**

Christ was faithful as a Son over His House, **who's House we are IF we HOLD FAST OUR CONFIDENCE AND THE REJOICING OF OUR HOPE FIRM UNTIL THE END.**

**We will not hold fast if we do not even know what this heavenly calling is!!!**

**Many words / expressions are used as synonyms of the term 'Heavenly Calling':**

**Christ's House** - [Hebrews 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.6&t=NKJV)

!!!I've suffered the loss of all things that I may lay hold of that for which I was laid hold of by Christ and **gain Christ**. ([Philippians 3:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.8&t=NKJV), [12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.12&t=NKJV))

**Partakers of Christ** – [Hebrews 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.14&t=NKJV)

Press on toward goal for the **prize of the upward call of God** - [Philippians 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.14&t=NKJV)

**Hope of His calling and riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints** - [Ephesians 1:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.18&t=NKJV)

Suffer with Him, so that we may also be **glorified with Him** - [Romans 8:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.17&t=NKJV)

**Bringing many Sons to Glory** - [Hebrews 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.10&t=NKJV)

If we endure with Him we will **reign with Him** - [2 Timothy 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+2.12&t=NKJV)

Those who will **inherit salvation** - [Hebrews 1:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.14&t=NKJV)

**Overcomers** - [Revelation 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2&t=NKJV); [3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3&t=NKJV)

**Then** [**Hebrews 3:12-14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.12-14&t=NKJV) **presents the second admonition / warning:**

*"Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.*

*But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

*For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,*

[**Hebrews 4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4&t=NKJV) - Now let's proceed into [Hebrews 4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4&t=NKJV). But there is a transition that begins in [Hebrews 3:12ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.12ff&t=NKJV):

[Hebrews 3:12ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.12ff&t=NKJV) - *Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.* [Continue to read.]

[Hebrews 3:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.19&t=NKJV) – *We see they were not able of enter because of* ***unbelief****.*

What was it they didn't believe? **They did not believe God's promise concerning bringing them into the Promised Land [safely]**.

[Hebrews 4:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.1&t=NKJV) - *Therefore,* ***let us fear*** *if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.*

If we are not aware of this millennial rest, we certainly **will not fear** falling short of it. We will not even be aware that such a rest exists.

[Hebrews 4:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.2&t=NKJV) - *For indeed we have had* ***good news*** [**our heavenly calling**] *preached* ***to us****, just as* ***they also****; but the word* [good news] *they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.*

What was the good news that was preached to us? Answer: *The good news of the Glorious Kingdom*. 'They also?' Answer: *The good news of their promised Canaan Land*.

What does 'did not profit them' mean? They did not continue to believe God's promises about bringing them into their Promised Canaan. They neglected the promises and drifted away from them. They did not hold fast their confidence [in what God had said], nor did they hold fast the boast of their great hope, firm until the end.

[Hebrews 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.3&t=NKJV) – *For we who have believed* [[aorist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aorist_%28Ancient_Greek%29) participle] *enter the rest just as He has said*:

*Translation, considering the aorist participle*: For we who believe, having believed to the end, enter the rest just as *He has said,*

(But, to the Israelites), *He has said*, "*As I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST*." (See [Psalm 95:10-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+95.10-11&t=NKJV))

**Further explanation about *believing to enter the rest*:**

**We who believe [having believed to the end] enter the rest.**

It is similar to:

*if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.* ([Hebrews 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.6&t=NKJV))

*if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.* ([Hebrews 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.14&t=NKJV))

[Hebrews 4:4-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.4-8&t=NKJV):

*For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: "AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS";*

*and again in this passage, "THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST."*

*Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience* [unbelief].

Compare with: [Hebrews 3:18-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.18-19&t=NKJV),

*He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."*

*For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that* ([Hebrews 4:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.8&t=NKJV))

**A Rest of God:**

"MY REST" comes after a completed work, *e.g*., Perfect Creation – THEN A REST TO ADMIRE AND ENJOY the completed work.

An opportunity for a Rest of God was Israelites entering into the Promised Land. Had the Israelites trusted God to protect them upon entering and defeating all enemies, they could have entered a rest of God. They did not -- far from it. Therefore God said, "You shall not enter My rest."

If Joshua had given them rest? How do we know Joshua did not give them rest?

The Israelites' enemies were never totally defeated.

They did not inherit the Promised Land.

Israel's occupancy of a land was not permanent.

There is rest only after a completed [permanent] work!

**Read** [**Psalm 95**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+95&t=NKJV)**.**

[Hebrews 4:9-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.9-11&t=NKJV)

*So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.*

*For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.*

*Therefore let us* ***be diligent*** *to enter that rest,* ***so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.***

In what ways could we be diligent?

Attitudes, activities, mindset --- **to keep ourselves from falling as they did, ensuring we do enter the rest.**

Turn to the New Testament for some answers:

In [1 Corinthian 9:24-10:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthian+9.24-10.12&t=NKJV) we can hear Paul's answer to our question about "being diligent to enter the rest."

[I Corinthians 10:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Corinthians+10.11&t=NKJV) - ***Now these things happened to them as an example and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.***

[Hebrews 4:12-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.12-13&t=NKJV)

*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart* [motives].

*And there is no creature hidden from His sight* [sobering, scary thought], *but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him* [Jesus Christ] with whom we have to do. (*Cf.* [Romans 14:10-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+14.10-12&t=NKJV), [2 Corinthians 5:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+5.10&t=NKJV))

So, what specific "word of God" is the writer of Hebrews speaking of in this particular instance – this word of God that is so sharp and has such penetrating power that it can divide between soul and spirit and even judge the thoughts and intents of the heart? (*I.e.*, the purity of our motives)

I suggest that in speaking of the word of God, it is not speaking of the word of the Old Testament, which was all the word that was available when this was written. Instead this is speaking about the particular word we have just read in [Hebrews 3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3&t=NKJV), the word of God about the House of Moses. The testimony of the experiences of the House of Moses can judge the thoughts and intentions of our hearts [motives] and separate between soul and spirit, *i.e.* the purity of our motivations can be judged [made clear].

The word of God in the House of God is able to discriminate between what is "spiritual" in man and what is merely "soulish" or natural.

These inner elements of man [spirit/soul] are often interwoven as closely as "joints and marrow." The inner life of Christians is often a strong mixture of motivations, both genuinely spiritual and completely soulish/human.

Remember, when we are "born again" our spirit is made new, saved - made perfect - and the Holy Spirit of God dwells in our spirit. We are to be "led by the Spirit."

The soul, on the other hand, composed of my mind, will and emotions, is in the process of being saved and I cannot depend on my mind, will and emotions to lead me according to the will of God.

If we, as believers, consider our Christian walk in the light of God's account of the experiences of the House of Moses, this word will help us be able to more perfectly walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, and worthy of our "heavenly calling". Our lives will "bear good [righteous] fruit that will remain," and we will "hold the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, so we might become partakers of Christ and His House.

*…Christ was faithful as a Son over His house--whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.* ([Hebrews 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.6&t=NKJV))

[Hebrews 4:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.13&t=NKJV) again:

*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

Still sober and scary!

But the very person who frightens us in [Hebrews 4:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.13&t=NKJV) is the very One Who gives us hope in [Hebrews 4:14-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+4.14-16&t=NKJV):

*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession* [of our hope, our confession of faith in Him, to Jesus Christ, our High Priest.]

*For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*

*Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

**Help how?**

Back to [1 Corinthian 9:24-10:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthian+9.24-10.12&t=NKJV):

Paul helped the Corinthians evaluate themselves according to the Word of God with regard to the House of Moses. That is, the House of Israel failed in this way: **LEARN FROM THEIR MISTAKES!**