

Entering His Rest - Part 1

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C. Elijah Bronner: The main thing that we have to do is to keep ourselves in Christ.

Female: You are listening to BrothersoftheWord.com. This is part one of the series titled, "Entering His Rest" by C. Elijah Bronner. This sermon is number 7841. That's 7841. Listen to thousands of sermons on BrothersoftheWord.com.

(Music Playing: 00:00:25 - 00:00:52)

Female: And now for 7841, Entering His Rest - Part 1.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because, brother, you need the Word.

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at BrothersoftheWord.com or Facebook Live. Welcome to today's service. It's always a wonderful delight and joy to have you to tune in and join us.

We'd like to share just a little humor. A young girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. Every so often, she would reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek, then she would touch her own cheek and then his again. There was obviously something on her mind. "Papa?" She asked finally. Did God make you? "Yes, Sweetie," he answered. "God made me a long, long time ago." "Did God make me too?" She asked. "He certainly did, honey," her grandpa replied. "God made you just a little while ago." After touching his cheek and then her cheek again, she concluded, "God's getting better at it. Isn't he?"

Well, I would like to share some scripture over in the Book of Hebrews, the Book of Hebrews. The Book of Hebrews. And actually, I'm going to read quite a bit of scripture. Hopefully, I can help to catch you up on your scripture reading if you've been behind. So, I want to catch you up for two or three weeks-worth of scripture. Yes. So, here we go, reading a lot of scripture, but Hebrews Chapter 3. Hebrews Chapter 3, we'll begin with Verse 7. Hebrews Chapter 3, beginning at Verse 7, and we'll read down, actually, through Verse 19, Hebrews 3:7-19.

Beginning with Verse 7, Hebrews Chapter 3 says, "Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw

my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, "They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So, I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? Was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So, we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."

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And that's Chapter 3 of Hebrews talking about the children of Israel, and they couldn't enter the Promised Land, which was called rest, and it was called rest because for 40 years, they were constantly traveling. So, they never had rest because they never came to a permanent place. So, they were constantly going around in circles for 40 years.

They were constantly on the move, and God said, "I would not allow them to enter into my rest," or the Promised Land, the place where they could settle and call home, "because of their unbelief." Actually, the Bible calls it evil heart. So, the Bible calls unbelief evil, because they wouldn't believe God. They wouldn't trust God. They wouldn't obey God, and God said, "I proved them for 40 years and they still wouldn't listen to me, still wouldn't believe me." And so, He said, as a result, He said, "You all will not be entering into rest, a place where you can stop, settle, a place where you can call home."

And so, the warning is to us. So, the writer is saying, you know, that's why we have to admonish one another every day. So, every day, we've got to be calling each other, we've got to be encouraging one another. We've got to keep each other in the faith because a

person could slide into sin, through the deceitfulness of sin, and they could turn their back on God.

And so, that's why it's important to remain in fellowship with other believers, with other Christians, with other people of God, because we have to help one another, and we motivate one another. We encourage one another so nobody slips away because this world could pull you away. Things can happen in life, and they can pull you and pull you away, and they can make people fall away.

I've seen people suffer tragedies in life, and they turn from God. I've seen people go through things and they end up leaving God. I've seen people get caught up in certain pleasures or a certain lifestyle and their hearts turn from God. So, that's why the Bible says, "Hey, we have to provoke one another, encourage one another daily, so that no one falls away."

So, it's saying, you know, be careful. Just because you're a believer, be careful because you don't want to fall away, because things can happen in life and you don't want to end up turning your back on God and falling away. So, that's what happened to his people, and this was written to us as an admonition. So, that's why we encourage one another.

Now go to Chapter 4, Chapter 4 where the story continues. I told you I was going to have you read a lot of scripture. I'm just trying to catch up on your Bible-reading. But Chapter 4 of Hebrews, we'll read Verses 1 through 10, and the same story continues. This same account continues to **us**. So, Hebrews 4:1-10, now it says, "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it."

So, it's saying, they had a promise of reaching the Promised Land, God had Promised Land for them. They couldn't reach it because of their unbelief. Now, it's saying we need to really be careful because there's something for us as well. There's something for us to reach. There's something for us to have and obtain. And so, we need to be very careful so we don't end up like them.

Verse 2, it says, "For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, "As I have sworn in my

wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all His works.

Verse 5, And in this place again, if they shall enter into my rest. Verse 6, seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.”

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Verse 9, and here’s the verse I really want you to get. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For He that is entered into his rest, He also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His. Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. And I just want to use that as a subject for this particular series, entering his rest. Entering his rest. Entering his rest. These two passages really intrigue me because I saw that there were two types of rest, two types of rest under the Old Covenant that’s mentioned in these passages we just read in Hebrews.

The first rest as I mentioned earlier it was the Promised Land, that was the rest so they would finally have a place to remain and stay and dwell. They got shield, had a place to live. They didn’t have to travel and be nomads with the dessert. They can now settle and have rest from their journey. So, the Promised Land was one of the rests under the Old Covenant.

The second rest under the Old Covenant was the Sabbath Day rest. And so, God eluded to the seventh day that after he finished creating the world, he rested. He rested. And so there were to rests, the Promised Land and the Sabbath Day. Everybody says, “Two rests, the Promised Land and the Sabbath Day. Well, those were the two rests. Those were the two rests under the Old Covenant, the Promised Land and the Sabbath Day rest.

But now it tells us that those rests were not the only rest and it said that if that had been the case, there wouldn’t have been

mention of another rest. And so, there is made mention of another rest that today we as the people of God can now enter into that rest. There remaineth of rest to the people of God. And we enter into that rest by faith, those who believe enter into that rest the same way they couldn't enter into that rest because they didn't believe. And so, we enter into that rest by believing God, by believing His word, by believing in Christ Jesus.

So, under the Old Covenant, the rest was the Sabbath Day and it was the Promise land, but under the New Covenant, the rest is not merely a day, it's not merely a physical location. Under the New Covenant, the rest is a person and his name is Jesus. Jesus is our rest under the New Covenant. The remaineth a rest to the people of God and we enter into that rest by faith. When you place your faith in Christ Jesus and make Him the Lord of your life, you'll able to enter into this rest that we have and this rest is far greater than the rest that they had under the Old Covenant. This rest is not just a physical location like the Promise Land. This rest is not just a day, but this rest is a person. This rest is Jesus. This rest is Jesus.

And so, when we enter into His rest, and so the bible says, "Labored to enter into his rest." We work to enter into this rest that Jesus gives us. Jesus is our Sabbath Day rest. He is our Sabbath Day rest. Everyday can be the Sabbath with Christ. Every day is the Sabbath with Christ Jesus. Everywhere we go is the Promise Land in Christ Jesus. Everywhere we go is the Promised Land. So, in Christ Jesus, he is the rest under the New Covenant. He is the rest under the new Covenant.

And so, we find our rest in Him. We rest in Him. We rest in Him. We are made righteous by our faith in Him. We are no longer burdened down with sin, we are no longer under the burden and the guilt the same of sin. No, we have entered into his rest, we are made righteous by our faith in Christ Jesus. And so, we are now at rest, we rest in his finish work.

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We rest in his finish work. The same way God rested after He created the world, we now rest in the work that Jesus finished that (00:15:19) his cross. And so now we enter into his rest. We rest in the finished work of Christ Jesus. We rest. We rest in that. Praise God.

So, this is the New Covenant rest. This is the New Testament Rest. This is the new Testament Rest. We rest in Christ Jesus. We rest in His presence, we rest in His love, we rest in His grace, we rest. We rest in Him. It's something to know your soul is now at rest. Your soul is at rest. See, this is deeper than just physical rest. This is deeper than physical rest. This is deeper than just resting the body. Your soul is now at rest. Your soul is at rest.

So, we rest the physical body and we all need rest for the physical body and so that's what the Sabbath Day was for. It is for God's people to make sure that they got adequate rest. And we need that rest, we need that rest for our physical body. The science now tells us you need at least seven to eight hours of sleep at night in order for your body to function optimally, for your brain to function, your organs to function for you to be alert, for you to live a healthy life without disease and so forth. You need seven to eight hours of sleep tonight, so we need physical rest.

I was just reading an article yesterday actually. Somebody sent me an article and it was talking about even taking a nap one or two days a week for five minutes to an hour, just one to two days a week. Researches have done a study on about 4,000 people and they have reason to believe, it's not conclusive, but they have reason to believe. The theory(ph) is still out but from the initial research they have done, they found that just taking a nap from five minutes to an hour, one or two days a week, not every day, but just one to two days every week, it lowers your chance of stroke and heart attack by 48 percent, just a nap, one or two days a week.

I see some of you going to sleep now, wake up, wake up. I didn't say go to sleep right now. Some of you all said I can use that now, right now. So, we can see the benefit of the physical rest. Physical rest is powerful. Physical rest is used to renew us, it is used to recover us, it is used to refresh us, it is used to rebuild us, it is used, you know, powerfully in our lives. So, in fact, if you look at all of those words, I just gave you how rest renews, restores, recovers, rebuilds, all of these things that rest does. If you notice rest also starts with R E, the first two letters of rest, RE means to bring back, to make new again. Just like restore, renew, refresh. So, even in the word rest itself is bringing us back to a place where we make new again. So, rest recovers us and refreshes us, renews us, rebuilds us, so it helps us.

So physical rest is good for the body and that's why God mandated the Sabbath Day rest. God knew what rest is. He is the one that created us and so that's why he mandated rest. And I like the way God made people rest. God says, "If you don't rest, I will kill you." I love that. I love that. God literally had to threaten down, he had to threaten to kill them to make them rest. And that's why the Sabbath was such a big deal because the penalty for breaking the Sabbath was death. God said, "I'll kill you if you don't rest."

He had to literally make the people rest. And you can see why I had to do it because now if you look at today's time, all the sicknesses and all the disease is because we are burned out, we are stressed out, we are worried to death. America is sleep deprived all because we don't keep that main Sabbath Day rest and that's why God said, "If you don't rest, I'll kill you." He literally had to force us to rest.

And so, rest is important; however, what I wanted to say is, I want you to understand, sleep and rest are not completely the same thing. You can go to sleep but you may not rest. If you have a lot of stuff on your mind and you got anger with somebody or if you got a lot of worries and pressures and stresses, you can be in the bed, you can even be asleep, but it's not good sleep.

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If you don't rest, you don't rest. They're close. They're related. They're very close but however when you tap into the spiritual rest that we have in Christ, it actually leads to perfect sleep. It leads to sound sleep. It leads to good sleep because your soul is at rest. And when your soul is at rest, now the physical body can rest.

See, there are all types of rest. You have to have rest for your mind and rest for the body and rest for your spirit. You can be mentally fatigue. You can be emotionally fatigue. You can be worn out dealing with certain things. And so, there are so many things that we have to rest from and it's this rest that we find in Christ. The premia is all of those things and it gives us true rest. It gives us true rest. It gives us true rest. It's powerful. These two chapters in Hebrews, Chapter 3 and 4 that deals with this. When I read it, I was like they remaineth at the rest to the people

of God. And I could just feel the Holy Spirit scratching at me saying, "Something here I want my people to get. The people under the Old Covenant then entered into my rest because of their unbelief. They head to Sabbath day. One day a rest.

But under this New Covenant, there's something far greater and something far better. It's the rest that Christ gives. He is the Sabbath day rest. He is the Promised Land rest. He is our eternal rest. He gives rest to the soul. He gives rest to the body. He gives rest to the mind. And so, when your soul is at rest then your physical body can rest. And so, when you find that when you tap into the rest that comes from His presence, the rest that comes from abiding in Him. And I see why Hebrew says, "We have to labor to enter into this rest." You got to work to get into this rest because the main thing that we have to do is to keep ourselves in Christ. And that takes work because there are so many distractions. We're so busy. We got so many places to go, things to do. We have all of these electronics. We have all of these social media. We got so many distractions.

The hardest part about being a Christian really is keeping yourself in Christ. That's our main job. Our main job really is to abide in Him everything else would take care of itself. But that's a tough job to abide in Him. To abide in him, and that's why it says, let us labor to enter into this rest. So, we can stay in Christ. Oh, man, we will have a rest literally that's out of this world. This is the rest under the New Covenant. This is the rest under the New Covenant. Well, I just wanted to lay a foundation, this week I'm going to continue teaching on this because it so fascinated me because I had never really studied or dug in to this New Covenant rest that we have in Christ. This New Covenant rest.

The old testament rest was simply a foreshadowing of the rest that will come. The old testament is just a foreshadowing. Under the Old Covenant, there was a Promised Land. Under the New Covenant in this rest, we have all the promises of God. All the promises of God are yes and amen in Christ Jesus. That's part of the rest. That's part of the rest that we get. We don't just get physical land, we get all the promises of God. In Him are yes and amen.

So, there is a place where you learn how to rest in the promises of God. You learn how to rest in his presence. You learn how to rest and abide in him. You rest in Him. you learn how to rest in Him.

You rest in His promises. You rest in His presence. You rest in His life and we will see true rest. True rest.

Anyways, so, we'll pick up and continue next time. I just wanted to lay a foundation. We'll even talk about resting in His love. There's something the bible talks about resting in His love, resting in His love.

Praise God. Anybody can use some of this rest I'm talking about? Praise God. Amen. Give the Lord a hand for His word.

Oh, man. I'm excited about it. I'll show you some scriptures too that deal with sleep. The bible actually talks about physical sleep and what God has to say about it and how he helps us. And we'll talk about this New Covenant rest, entering into His rest, resting into His promises, resting in His presence, resting in His love, resting in faith, resting in faith. Praise God.

So, there's something that God gives his people where we're not stressed out, burned out, worried to death like the world. They remaineth the rest to the people of God. Praise God. Praise God. And I believe God wants us to enter into that rest. I know He wants us to enter into that rest. Amen. Amen.

Stand to your feet. I'm out of time. Those of you who are watching by television, I want you to go brothersoftheword.com. You can listen to this message in its entirety, "Entering Into His Rest" absolutely free of charge. You can also email it to a friend. Thank you so much for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother you need the word.

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