**Rest: Heirship in the world to come**

**As partners of the son, we get rest by persevering faith**

**Critical context**

**1. The warning about unbelief - 4:1-2**

**2. The promise is still good - 4:3-9**

**3. Summing it up - 4:10-11**

**A. We stop working when we enter rest - 4:10**

 **B. Acting on faith - 4:11**

**4. Applications - 4:12-16**

 **A. Exposure to God’s Word - 4:12-13**

 **B. Our High Priest - 4:14-16**

**Finally…Rest!**

**In these Old Testament texts, “rest” is used almost interchangeably with “inheritance” and “possession” and in each case, with reference to the land It follows obedience, in accordance with God’s promise to Israel. The idea in each of these terms is closely tied to their *victory over their enemies*.**

**Historical Background**

**Dt. 3:18-20;** [**12:8-10**](http://bible.crosswalk.com/OnlineStudyBible/bible.cgi?word=de+12:10&version=nas&st=1&sd=1&new=1&showtools=1); [**25:19**](http://bible.crosswalk.com/OnlineStudyBible/bible.cgi?word=de+25:19&version=nas&st=1&sd=1&new=1&showtools=1); **Joshua 1:10-15;** [**11:23**](http://bible.crosswalk.com/OnlineStudyBible/bible.cgi?word=jos+11:23&version=nas&st=1&sd=1&new=1&showtools=1); **21:43**-**45; 22:1-9**; **23:1-16**

This is significant when one reads Hebrews 3:18-4:10, especially 4:8. The author mentions that Joshua **did not give the Israelites rest**! Yet, the passages we just read from Joshua clearly indicate that he had, at least in one sense.

**Summary**

* Victory over their enemies (salvation), possessing the land, and obedience were involved in the idea of “rest”
* Rest and inheritance are virtual synonyms
* Historically, the Israelites received a type of rest after they received their inheritance and had subdued their enemies.
* However, while the enemies had been subdued, often indicates as in Josh. 23:13, the final victory had yet to be achieved; i.e., another rest still remained
* Israel didn’t permanently possess the land; they did not have the final rest
* In OT, they looked to possession of their inheritance in the Messianic kingdom
* Psalm 95 informed us that this is a future rest after Joshua’s time
* The background indicates this is tied to the Kingdom, as it was for Israel
* The rest today is for believers and involves obedience (Heb. 3:12-13; 18-19; 4:9, 11-13)
* Inheritance in the Kingdom is consistently dangled as motivation for believers, both positively and negatively (Mt. 5:2-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:16-23)

**Conclusion**

***The Messianic-rest we have before us it to share in Christ’s rule in the Kingdom. We enter that rest by finishing our work of obedience and discipleship, just as God finished His work and just as believers before us were expected to finish theirs. Ours is a rest that cannot be lost once gained and is forever (Heb. 12:28).***