

Recap of last week's study:

Jesus Providing Bread in the Wilderness

Mark 6:30-44; John 6:48-51

Jesus' miraculous sign of feeding a massive Israelite crowd in the wilderness recalls God's provision of manna after the exodus, revealing that Jesus is the one who supplies abundantly for all human needs.

Faithfulness in the Wilderness Leads to Rest

Psalm 95:7-11; Hebrews 3:12-19, 4:1-11

True rest is available for those who learn to trust God enough to follow his instruction and embrace his way of life.

Psalms 95:7-11NASB

⁷For He is our God,

And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

Today, if you will hear His voice,

⁸Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah,

As on the day of Massah in the wilderness,

⁹“When your fathers put Me to the test,

They tested Me, though they had seen My work.

Psalms 95:7-11NASB

¹⁰“For forty years I was disgusted with that generation,

And said they are a people who err in their heart,
And they do not know My ways.

¹¹“Therefore I swore in My anger,
They certainly shall not enter My rest.”

Consider:

When God led the Israelites through the wilderness after freeing them from slavery in Egypt, he was taking them toward the promised land for lives of abundance and peaceful rest.

- But along the way, wilderness hardships like lack of food and water drove many to become hard-hearted and bitter toward God.

Psalms 95:7-11 reflects on that journey.

Hebrews 3:12-19 NASB

¹² Take care, brothers and sisters, that there will not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another every day, as long as it is still called “today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ if we keep the beginning of our commitment firm until the end, ¹⁵ while it is said,
“Today IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,
DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY
PROVOKED ME.”

Hebrews 3:12-19 NASB

¹⁶ For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷ And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

Consider:

The Israelite generation first liberated from Egyptian enslavement often complained against God and Moses (Ex. 16:2-3, 17:3).

- And when they made it to the edge of the promised land, they discovered fearsome warriors and refused to enter, abandoning trust in God.
- So, God allowed them to remain in the wilderness, and neither they nor Moses entered God's rest (Num. 13:1-14:45, 20:1-13).

Hebrews 4:1-11 NASB

¹ Therefore, we must fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also did; but the word they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united with those who listened with faith. ³ For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, “AS I SWORE IN MY ANGER, THEY CERTAINLY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST,” although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Hebrews 4:1-11 NASB

⁴ For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: “AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS”; ⁵ and again in this passage, “They CERTAINLY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.” ⁶ Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who previously had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷ He again sets 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.”

Hebrews 4:1-11 NASB

⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. ⁹ Consequently, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. ¹⁰ For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. ¹¹ Therefore let's make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following the same example of disobedience.

Consider:

Their children did enter the promised land under Joshua's leadership.

- But even though God “gave them rest” from their enemies (Josh. 21:44), they still did not experience the fullness of God's rest, the kind of rest established during the seventh day of creation (Heb. 4:8-10; Gen. 2:2-3).

Consider:

So, the author of Hebrews challenges people to seek God's deep Sabbath rest that began at the original creation and will be fulfilled in the new creation.

- Jesus is a new Joshua (in the Greek, both names are the same), leading people into the ultimate Sabbath rest by teaching a way of total trust in God—relying fully on God for both provision and protection.
- This kind of trust drives out fear and allows for listening with soft hearts to embrace Jesus' ways of justice and love so that we can enter God's rest *today*.

Reflect

- What can we learn from Israel's journey in the wilderness to help us enter the deep, true rest God offers?

Relevant Scripture

1 Cor. 10:1-13

Next week preview:

Study Theme Overview: Redemption

What Does Redemption Mean in the Bible?

- In the Bible, redemption often involves restoring people to their family or transferring possessions back to their rightful owner.
- Biblical authors also use redemption more broadly to describe liberating people from situations of distress or death.

Redemption From Enslavement (6/4)

- Exodus 6:2-8; Deuteronomy 7:7-11

Redemption of the Firstborn (6/4)

- Exodus 13:1-16; Numbers 3:44-48

Redemption of Land and Enslaved Relatives (6/4)

- Leviticus 25:23-28, 47-55

Redemption of Blood (7/9)

- Numbers 35:9-28

Boaz' Redemption of Naomi's Land and Restoration of Ruth (7/9)

- Ruth 4:1-12

Redemption From Distress or Death (7/9)

- 1 Samuel 14:24-28, 43-45; Psalms 49:7-9, 14-15; 55:16-19

Redemption From Exile (8/6)

- Isaiah 43:1-7, 44:21-23, 48:20-21, 51:9-11

Redemption Anticipated Through Jesus (8/6)

- Luke 1:67-75, 2:36-38; Mark 10:42-45

Redemption Accomplished Through Jesus (8/6)

- Romans 3:21-24; 1 Peter 1:13-21; Hebrews 9:11-15

Regular Weekly Sr. Adult Bible Study will resume on 9/3

Source:

[The Wilderness in the Bible | TBD](#)