

Introduction

1. The term “rest” is used frequently in this chapter: I think at least 8 times.
2. Different “rests”:
 - a. God’s rest after the creation;
 - b. in Canaan – see v.8 (= Jordan);
 - c. the gospel – rest
 - d. the eternal rest
3. They are mysteriously related, e.g. the OT "Jesus" (= Joshua) and the NT Jesus.

DOCTRINE: God has prepared an eternal rest for all who are sincere believers in Christ.

1. IN EVERY CASE THERE IS A PATTERN HERE:-

the Rest is always after a mighty labour/work.

- (i) God "rested" – what a labour!
 What is meant by God "resting"
APPLICATION: Let us give God the glory of this work as we see in Psalms 8, 19, etc. It is our duty. Let us use our eyes to behold God's greatness.
- (ii) Joshua gave them rest – the years of journeying in the desert – the conflict with enemies in Canaan – Moses not typologically suited to give this rest – Israel's rest in Canaan.
APPLICATION: There is a warning here – many fell.
- (iii) Christ gives us rest – years of suffering then the Cross – but what rest of soul he has brought to us: "It is finished!" – we find "rest" for our souls – state of grace.
APPLICATION: Rejoice in this – it is a good conscience and assurance of sins forgiven.
- (iv) The rest still to come: TEXT – the state of glory at last:
 "Blessed are the dead..."

APPLICATION: It will be sweet to enter this rest at the last.

2. THE ULTIMATE REST OF HEAVEN WILL BE PERFECT, ETERNAL AND SUBLIME

- 1) There will never be any more sweat, toil or strife. God will care for us forever.

ILLUSTRATION: Adoniram Judson's wife as she learned she was soon to die.

APPLICATION: So, work faithfully for God NOW.

- 2) No more enemies to trouble us – no more bad experiences – no more unhappiness:

(i) cruel men: their tongues and pens

(ii) cruel devil: in the lake of fire

(iii) death: the last enemy – conquered at the resurrection

APPLICATION: Look ahead to this happy time.

- 3) No more bad conscience, fears of displeasing God, breaking His laws:

(i) we shall love God perfectly with all our heart and soul

(ii) love one another perfectly

APPLICATION: Heaven is a world of love.

- 4) God will be our inheritance, our portion, our sublime delight – all his attributes will fill us with ecstatic joy forever.

APPLICATION: So let us have a cheerful view of the Christian's death.

CONCLUSION

This is "waiting" for us. It is all "prepared".

APPLICATION: So, let us take care that we are truly His people.

PSALM

8: 1 – 5

19: 1 – 7

27: 3 - 5