

## IS THE KINGDOM NOW, OR IS IT FUTURE?

There are many differing thoughts and beliefs concerning the kingdom of God (a.k.a. the kingdom of heaven), whether it is presently here, now, or whether it remains yet future. There are also differing thoughts regarding whether it is a literal kingdom or a metaphorical kingdom. The purpose of this brief summation is to show *scripturally* that the people of God can in no way currently be in, or in possession of, this kingdom.

Follow along with these verses, and pay attention to the points that are raised:

Hebrews 3:7-4:9

7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,

8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,

9 WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS.

10 "THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART; AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS';

11 AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'"

12 Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.

13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance 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."

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 bodies fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did He swear that they should 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.

4:1 ¶ Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.

2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

3 For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.

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

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

6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience,

7 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."

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that.

**9 There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God.**

- The writer of Hebrews tells us that there is still a Sabbath rest for the people of God (you and me, Christians). He ties it in with the first generation of Israel who did NOT get to enter God's rest, and warns of the same potential outcome for the Christian today. So let's look at that second generation who DID get to enter the rest (for a short while, because staying in the land was conditioned upon their obedience), and see exactly what the "rest" is.

Deuteronomy 12:9-10

9... for you have not as yet come to the **resting place** and **the inheritance** which the LORD your God is giving you.

10 "When you cross the Jordan and **live in the land** which the LORD your God is giving you **to inherit**, and He gives you **rest from all your enemies** around you so that you live in security...

- The place of rest was their inheritance, to be realized in the land that God would give them. This rest constituted a rest from all of their enemies.
- So let's read about OUR inheritance, which is the "rest" that still remains for us, and see where it is.

1Peter 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 **to obtain an inheritance** which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, **reserved in heaven** for you.

- Our inheritance (our land in which we will have rest from all of our enemies) is reserved for us in heaven. What else can we learn about our inheritance, which is our rest?

1Corinthians 6:9-10

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not **inherit the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

10 nor thieves, nor [the] covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall **inherit the kingdom of God**.

- Our inheritance, which is our rest, which is in heaven reserved for us, is the kingdom. And since it still remains for us, and it isn't here (it's in heaven), then it must be future, right? Let's see...

1Corinthians 15:50

Now I say this, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

- Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom. The context here is that we must have new heavenly bodies, given to us at the resurrection, in order to receive our inheritance, which is the kingdom. So the kingdom is not now, nor do we own it now, nor is our rest now, nor do we have our inheritance now. It must all be realized at the time of the resurrection.