



Hebrews: The Whole Way

A Bible Study with John N. Oswalt at the Francis Asbury Society

SESSION 3

Hebrews 3:7–4:13

1. Scan the section quickly. What is the repeated word? Express the key idea in a brief sentence.
2. How does 4:12–13 function in relation to 3:7–4:11? Is it a conclusion? Then how does it function to conclude the previous section? If it is not a conclusion, what is it?
3. If you are not familiar with the story of Kadesh Barnea, read Numbers 13:26–14:25. Why did Israel not obey God's command to enter the land? How does Psalm 95:7–11 (Heb 3:7–11) characterize their attitude (what words does it use)? What is the significance of such attitudes? How do they relate to each other?
4. In a lot of Christian hymnody, Canaan is seen as heaven (and the Jordan as death). Do you think the author is using it that way here? Why or why not?
5. In what sense was Canaan "my rest"? (For the first 40 years or so, it was a place of intense conflict, so how could that be called a place of rest?)
6. What is his argument that "rest" does not merely refer to Canaan but has an application that is contemporary with those reading the book?
7. If "rest" does not merely relate to Canaan, what does it relate to as a theological concept? If we believe, do not harden our hearts, obey God's command to enter, what "rest" do we enter into?

8. Again, think of the analogy with Israel: they were “saved” from Egypt; they had received and accepted the covenant with God; but something more awaited them in the walk of faith. What was it, and how does that relate to the book’s readers and to us?