



Sunday, January 26, 2020
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to “Rest”

An African pastor prayed this to God a long time ago, “You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.” The theme of rest is a powerful one in Scripture. There is the sense of rest in which God “rested” from His works after the six days of creation (Gen. 2:2-3). This is picked up in the command to remember the Sabbath and to keep it holy. God’s people are to rest in the pattern in which God “rested.” After all, the Sabbath was made for man, for us to recognize the good gifts of God and to recognize our finitude in light of His infinite power and wisdom.

But the theme of rest doesn’t just have to do with the physical necessity because of our creatureliness. It also has to do with the cessation of various effects of the curse. In Joshua, the people have rest from the various wars they were fighting as they drove the people out of the land. This is a profound truth that echoes throughout the story of redemption leading up to the new heavens and the new earth where there will be rest from all the effects of the curse.

Context

The story of the book of Joshua can basically be understood in two parts: war and rest. The war is perhaps the more obvious, where stories of conquest and death and destruction are prominent. The most famous stories in Joshua pertain to this: the battle of Jericho, the sun standing still at the valley of Aijalon. But perhaps equally significant is the theme of rest—that after the conquest (though it was incomplete), the people had rest from the wars they had fought. The lengthy passages regarding the land allotments signals to the reader that there is a period of rest. No longer is the nation of Israel going to experience wandering and warfare, but they will have a place of their own, a “rest” provided by the LORD Himself.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Deuteronomy 12:10; Joshua 1:13; 11:23; 14:15; 21:44;
Hebrews 3:7-11; 4:8-16

“Invest in Rest”

Rest from:

- Wandering

- Warfare

- Worry

1. Why did they have rest?

- Possess the land...take it over

- How?...faith

2. Why did they not have rest?

- Did not purge the land...drive them out

- Why?...unbelief

Charles Price

“ We must learn to rest in the certainty of God’s sufficiency”

Invest in Rest

Discuss

- 1) When you think of the word “rest,” what comes to mind?

- 2) How does knowing for certain that Christ’s death has paid for all our sins give rest to our souls?

- 3) If we have absolute assurance of our salvation in Christ, how is it that Christians can still be weary or restless?

- 4) Read Hebrews 4:8-11 again. What does it look like for you to “strive” to enter God’s rest?

- 5) Read Matthew 11:28-30. Have you found Jesus’s yoke to be easy? How does He provide rest for our souls even as we endure hardship in this life?