

Saint's Eternal Rest
Selected Scriptures
April 12, 2015

Introduction

As we continue our study with the Glory of Heaven, I want to say that I noticed that there is not much information behind the theology of the Christian rest. It is a big topic and very wide-ranging. It is a challenge for me to narrow it down and make it understandable. However, it is an important concept for us to know and understand because it is something that is real for us now and will be real for us in the future. What is this rest? What does Scripture say about our eternal rest?

Scripture tells us that it is His rest that we are entering. It is His gift to us.

Psalms 95:11 So I declared on oath in My anger, "They shall never enter My rest."

Hebrews 4:9-10 There remains, then, a Sabbath rest for the people of God; **10** for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His.

Before we get into the topic of our eternal rest, I want to bring to your attention two interesting thoughts that are described in the Old Testament that pertains to our future rest.

First, rest in the OT is where the presence of God stops in the wilderness or dwells.

Numbers 10:33-36 So they set out from the mountain of the LORD and traveled for three days. The ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them during those three days to find them a place to rest. **34** The cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out from the camp. **35** Whenever the ark set out, Moses said, "Rise up, O LORD! May Your enemies be scattered; may Your foes flee before you." **36** Whenever it came to rest, he said, "Return, O LORD, to the countless thousands of Israel."

1 Chronicles 28:2 King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it."

2 Chronicles 5:7, 13-14 The priests then brought the ark of the LORD's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim. **13** The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; His love endures forever." Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud, **14** and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.

God's rest is where He dwells with His people. His people obtain rest when they are with Him.

Second, the rest from the Lord is tied to the inheritance of the land of Canaan.

Deuteronomy 3:20 until the LORD gives rest to your brothers as He has to you, and they too have taken over the land that the LORD your God is giving them, across the Jordan. After that, each of you may go back to the possession I have given you.

Note: Moses is speaking to the Israelites before they enter the Promised Land. They have not captured the land yet. When they have done so, then they will have rest.

How can the physical land be a rest? It is God's inheritance. The land belongs to the Lord and it is His to give away.

Exodus 15:17 *You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of Your inheritance—the place, O LORD, You made for Your dwelling, the sanctuary, O Lord, Your hands established.*

Not only the land was His to give away, but the people that He gave the land to are also His possession.

Exodus 19:5-6 *Now if you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession. Although the whole earth is Mine, **6** you will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.*

What do the two thoughts have to do with us as Christians? Our eternal rest is based on a real place—the New Jerusalem where we will dwell. We also will be with the presence of the Lord forever. We all are joint heirs to inherit His gift!

What is this eternal rest and what does it look like?

I. Absence of Every Evil

- Rest from sin
 - Satan is gone forever in the lake of fire

Revelation 20:10 *And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

- He will no longer tempt us

Matthew 4:1-3 *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. **2** After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. **3** The tempter came to Him and said, "If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*

1 Thessalonians 3:5 *For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.*

- He will no longer torment us

1 Peter 5:8-9 *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **9** Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

- Sin will never be in heaven

Revelation 21:27a *Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful.*

2 Peter 3:13 *But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*

- Rest from suffering

Revelation 7:16 *Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat.*

Revelation 21:4 *He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.*

- Rest from mystery of life
 - Not knowing how or why things happen

1 Corinthians 13:12 *Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

- Rest from cursed labor
 - All that we do is tiring—result of the curse

Genesis 3:17-19 *To Adam He said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. **18** It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. **19** By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."*

II. Presence of Every Blessing

- Conforming our character to God's character
 - We are constantly conformed into the likeness of our God

Revelation 7:13-14 *Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" **14** I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*

- Being white in the blood of the Lamb is the active condition of our being
- We long to be like Him

Psalms 17:15 *As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.*

- Everlasting growing in the knowledge of the Lord
 - God is infinite and we are finite
 - We have eternity to get to know Him and grow in Him
 - We can never exhaust learning about God
- Serving our God

- Our rest is not stagnant—just sitting around; inactivity
- We will spend eternity doing the works of God

Revelation 7:15 *Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.*

Revelation 22:3-5 *And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*

- We do this because we love God
- All our work is worshipful
- No tiring or barrier to our work!
- Everlasting face-to-face with God
 - This is the ultimate fulfillment of God's rest—we shall be with Him forever and ever!

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

Coram Deo

The Christian rest is actually a reality today; however, it is not complete. We have a Great High Priest who sympathizes with us and knows our weaknesses. Because He did not sin, we are able to overcome sin through His help, and if we fail, we can come before the throne of grace and find help. The Lord's Supper is the perfect picture of that rest. We did nothing to pay for sins and Christ did everything. His body was nailed to the tree and He was slain for our sins. Through Him we obtain mercy, we obtain righteousness.

Matthew 11:28-30 *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*

Lord's Supper