

Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.' So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'
Heb 3:10-11 NKJ

BLESSING SQUANDERED

The wretched misfortune of their unbelief was characterized in the golden calf they made. At the very moment of their greatest potential ecstasy (they were a *special treasure to (God) above all people*), they chose what they thought was the best they could do with what they had, rather than to inure to the measureless bounty of a child relationship with the King of the universe, *Himself*.

Of course you know that the hapless unbelieving souls were ordered to grind up the golden calf to powder...and drink it in their water.

The advance on their inheritance turned to...well...dung!

Dear pilgrim, no matter how great the uncertainty, God has a great plan for you as His child and it is right on schedule. Just be obedient to Him. Learn to live in His sufficiency. He has plenty.

Ken Bain

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you - JESUS.

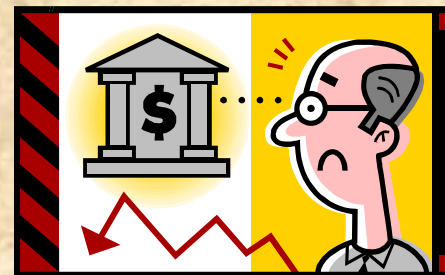


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Uncertainty?



There may be more uncertainty in our country today than any time since the great depression, or even the War Between the States.

There are voices coming from everywhere. But there is one voice that I pray we hear, "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock*". Jesus *is* the answer, and he *has* the answer. "*If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*" Rev 1:20 KJV

The Hebrews writer says in 4:9,
"*There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God*".

REST...

...peace that passes all understanding. Oh God, we need that kind of peace in America. And we need that kind of peace in our personal lives.

When reading Hebrews chapters 3 and 4 with an open heart and an investigative mind, one cannot help but notice that God is deeply serious about *REST*.

"*Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience*" Hebrews 4:11 NKJ

...Easy? ...think again. And what about that "*same example of disobedience*"? Listen...

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, For we who have believed do enter that rest... Hebrews 3:7-8 NKJ.

Disobedience, hardened hearts, rebellion...? *Whoa*, these bitter words in the context of...*REST*...?

Something tells us that we need to dig a little deeper.

The secret is in the *reason* that Moses wanted to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt.

If you believe it was that Moses just wanted to take them to the Promised Land...where milk and honey flowed, think again. Remember what Moses asked of Pharaoh, that the people might travel a three day's journey into the wilderness to sacrifice and have a feast unto God...there.

...THERE

It is important to remember that *there* was where Moses had encountered the Burning Bush.Where the *ground* was Holy. He wanted to bring his people into the *manifest presence* of God. (Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you... James 4:8) More importantly, that was the will of God! Moses wanted to introduce them to their Heavenly Father. ...That they would have a relationship with the One who created them, and who proved his greatness and singular love for them in their redemption.

God knew what the Israelites were yet to experience, that He was about to let them see the most extravagant list of miracles in human history in order to show them the extent of his love.

(Please read Exodus 15:1-21)

ALL THAT GOLD

Not only did He free them from slavery in the process, they crossed the Red Sea with what may have been tons of Egyptian gold.

But the waters had hardly stopped splashing over the greatest army on earth until the redeemed began to grumble. ...A foreign land, hunger, hot and dry with a lack of water. All that gold and not a Wal-Mart or McDonalds in sight...and Moses wants to climb a mountain to have his religious experience. Their Wall Street had just crashed. Their weekly paychecks, 401k's, Social Security and for that matter "welfare checks" were on the other side, and as much as they would like to go back, it was impossible.

Now hear God's promise to Moses for the children of Israel:
"You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and **brought you to Myself**. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine." Exodus 19:4-5 NKJ

The God of the universe had brought them to *Himself!* Yet they chose to hold back and to only see their future with eyes of doubt and fear. Close to three million people listened to their stomachs instead of their hearts. How quickly they forgot how the death angel passed over them, how the sea opened for them to cross on DRY ground.

But just how are we going to get by? All of *our* security is gone. All that we know is on the other side. If they had only opened their eyes of faith to see that when you get God, you get all that He has. The richness of their forthcoming inheritance was beyond comprehension. The gold from Egypt was only a hint at what was in store for them.