

# CULTURE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

---

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

(Hebrews 3:13)



**Context**

**Faith?**

**Rest!**

Hebrews 3:7-19, 4:1-12

**Culture of  
Encouragement**

Hebrews 3:13



Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,  
<sup>8</sup>DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS  
IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, <sup>9</sup>WHERE YOUR FATHERS  
TRIED *Me* BY TESTING *Me*, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS.  
<sup>10</sup>"THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID,  
'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW  
MY WAYS'; <sup>11</sup>AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY  
REST.'" <sup>12</sup>Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil,  
unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. (Hebrews 3:7-12)

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called  
"Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.  
(Hebrews 3:13)

For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of  
our assurance firm until the end, <sup>15</sup>while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR  
HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY  
PROVOKED ME." <sup>16</sup>For who provoked *Him* when they had heard? Indeed,  
did not all those who came out of Egypt *led* by Moses? <sup>17</sup>And with whom  
was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose  
bodies fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup>And to whom did He swear that they  
would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? <sup>19</sup>So we see  
that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. (Hebrews 3:14-19)

**Great Sea  
(Mediterranean)**

**Nile  
Delta**

**Saved!**

**Faith?**

**Rest!**

**Peninsula**

**Egypt**

**Traditional  
Route of  
the Exodus**

**Mt. Sinai**

**Red Sea**





**Great Sea  
(Mediterranean)**

**Nile  
Delta**

**Saved!**

**Unbelief?**

**Rest!**

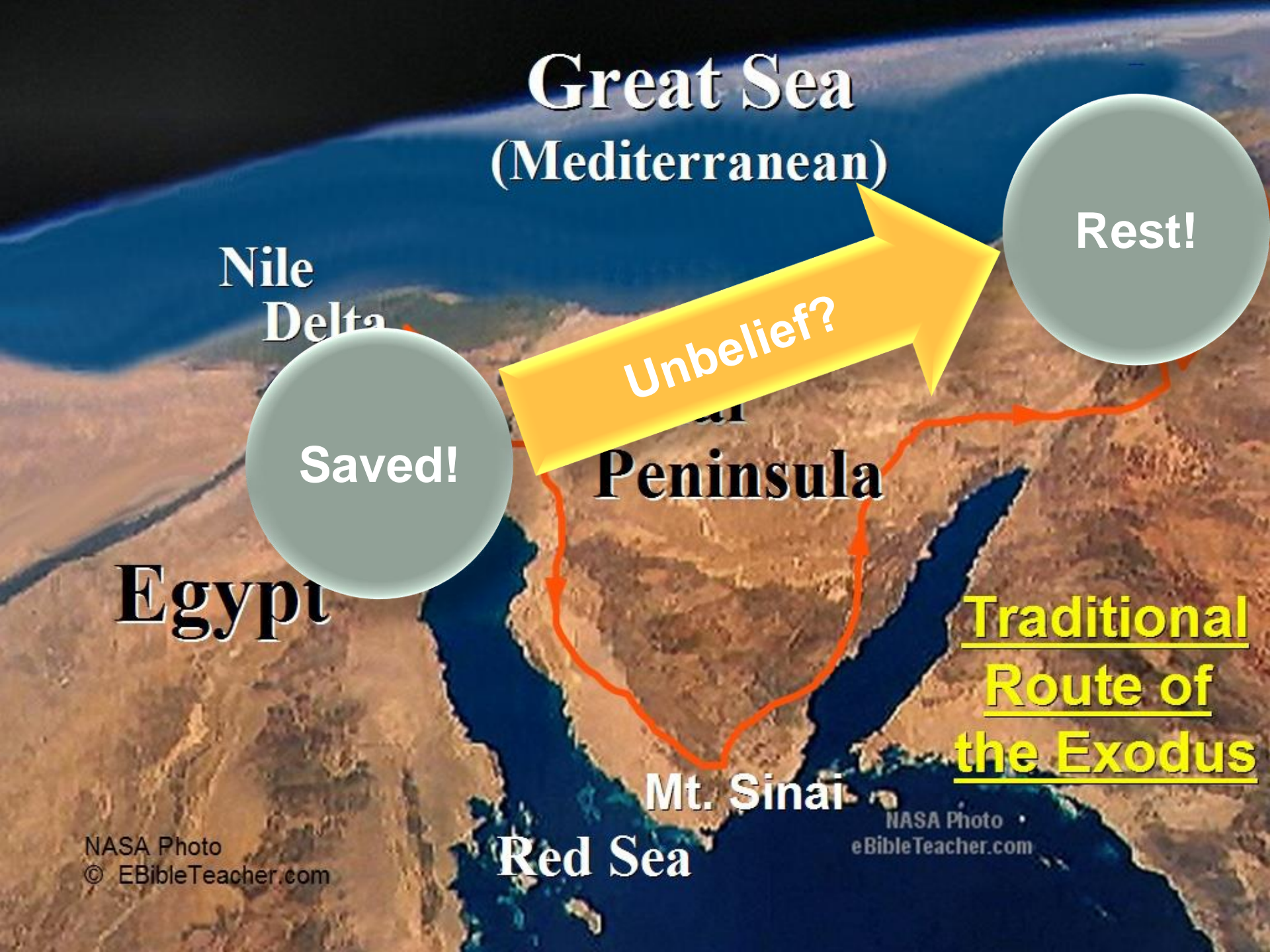
**Peninsula**

**Egypt**

**Traditional  
Route of  
the Exodus**

**Mt. Sinai**

**Red Sea**





**Great Sea  
(Mediterranean)**

**Nile  
Delta**

**Saved!**



**Rest!**

**Peninsula**

**Egypt**

**Traditional  
Route of  
the Exodus**

**Mt. Sinai**

**Red Sea**

<sup>12</sup>Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. (Hebrews 3:12)

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:13)

<sup>19</sup>So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. (Hebrews 3:19)

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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..." <sup>8</sup>For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. <sup>9</sup>So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. <sup>10</sup>For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. <sup>11</sup>Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through *following* the same example of disobedience. (Hebrews 4:1-3a, 8-11)



**Great Sea  
(Mediterranean)**

**Nile  
Delta**

**Saved!**

**Faith?**

**Rest!**

**Peninsula**

**Egypt**

**Traditional  
Route of  
the Exodus**

**Mt. Sinai**

**Red Sea**





Oh our hearts always  
hunger for.

Oh our hearts always  
hunger for.

**Saved!**

**Faith?**

**Rest!**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it... <sup>9</sup>So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. <sup>10</sup>For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. <sup>11</sup>Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through *following* the same example of disobedience. (Hebrews 4:1,9-11)

What is This?

Rest?

Faith? Or Evil!

Saved!

- Communion with God through Christ
- Real relationship!
- Sin pardoned. Purity. Holiness!
- Peace of conscience
- Abundant grace. Joy in Holy Spirit
- Ceased from our works of righteousness, and of the law

- God rested after the Creation
- Christ sat down at the right hand of God after completing His work of redemption
- **We too rest by faith in Christ's completed work**



# We Enter This Rest by Faith

**Saved!**

**Faith? Or Evil!**

**Rest?**

- Communion with God through Christ
  - Real relationship!
  - Sin pardoned. Purity. Holiness!
  - Peace of conscience
  - Abundant grace. Joy in Holy Spirit
  - Ceased from our works of righteousness, and of the law
- God gave Israel the land of rest
    - They had to act on their faith in God's work by entering this land
  - God through Christ gave us rest
    - We must have active faith in His completed work to experience His rest

# We Enter This Rest by Faith

**Saved!**

**Faith? Or Evil!**

**Rest?**

- Communion with God through Christ
- Real relationship!
- Sin pardoned. Purity. Holiness!
- Peace of conscience
- Abundant grace. Joy in Holy Spirit
- Ceased from our works of righteousness, and of the law

## Diligence to Actively Enter Rest by Faith

Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience. (Hebrews 4:11)



# We Enter This Rest by Faith

**Saved!**

**Faith? Or Evil!**

**Rest?**

- Communion with God through Christ
- Real relationship!
- Sin pardoned. Purity. Holiness!
- Peace of conscience
- Abundant grace. Joy in Holy Spirit
- Ceased from our works of righteousness, and of the law

## Diligence to Actively Enter Rest by Faith

- It's an active, conscious faith-decision
- I choose to believe in Christ's completed work in this moment...
  - As you received Christ Jesus (Col.2:6)
  - He transforms my heart & gives me His rest

# Context

Faith?

Rest!

Hebrews 3:7-19, 4:1-12

**Culture of  
Encouragement**

Hebrews 3:13





<sup>12</sup>Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. (Hebrews 3:12)

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:13)

<sup>19</sup>So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. (Hebrews 3:19)

## Hardening by the deceitfulness of sin?

- Satan is the Great Deceiver, so he's good at it
- Seems ok, but it's actually sin
- Keep doing it and you become hardened... you lose your sensitivity to other sins... progression of sins
- Hebrews 3 and 4 tells us that this hardening in sin begins with a simple and subtle lack of faith in God to give Rest

# Hardening in Sin

You can rest in God's infinite and unconditional love right now

Offended  
Resentment  
Bitterness  
Outburst of Anger



# Hardening in Sin

You can rest in your complete cleansing through Christ's work right now



Rationalization/Denial  
Legalisms  
Self Righteousness  
Hardened, Joyless, and Powerless

<sup>12</sup>Take care, brethren, that there not be in any of you an unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. (Hebrews 3:12)

But encourage one another day after day as you see the day drawing near, so that none of you will become careless because of the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:13)

<sup>19</sup>So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. (Hebrews 3:19)

# Encourage another?

- Encouraging another's faith to enter His rest!
- Encouraging faith in the specifics of Christ's work
- Encouraging faith in the certainty of holiness!
- Encouraging faith to real communion with God!
- Encouraging faith in rest from works of righteousness
- Encouraging faith in the specifics of the Word

Email!

Text!

The City!

Call!

Meet!

LIFE Group!

Faith!

Rest!

# Whoops!

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. <sup>22</sup>Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You." <sup>23</sup>But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's." (Matthew 16:21-23)

- Bad example of attempted encouragement
  - Well meaning... from the Pit... Deceived!
- Don't participate or encourage self pity or the pull of the flesh
  - Encourage to God's purposes
  - The right encouragement for each of us is to go forward as we REST in His completed work, and do God's will
  - This is the encouragement we need, not a reinforcement of the flesh... the world... the easiest way



**But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:13)**

## Day after day as long as it's still called "today"

- Urgency
- Danger and immediacy
- The Spirit is putting His hand on your calendar
- Make room in your day for encouragement
- Develop new routines
- Nobody has spare time!
- **God recognizes your challenges with time and addresses this urgent need in that context**



# Culture of Encouragement

Faith?

Rest!

## Let's Possess the Land!

- Joshua and Caleb could not enter alone
- We are God's community here
  - We all need to enter God's rest each day
  - We are all prone to being deceived
  - We all need encouragement to faith
  - This is about **us**
- I know I'm missing this rest a lot... I need encouragement... you do too!
- God built us to require one another's encouragement at the point of our practical faith!

**But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:13)**

# Culture of Encouragement

Faith?

Rest!

## Let's Possess the Land!

We all need to commit to  
building a  
Culture of Encouragement  
here and now

