

Sabbath People: Countercultural Agents

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Wherever _____ is being lived out, there too is the
_____ breaking in on the scene.

Hebrews 4:1-6 NLT

God's promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it. For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn't share the faith (pistis) of those who listened to God. For only we who believe can enter his rest. As for the others, God said,

"In my anger I took an oath:

"They will never enter my place of rest,"

even though this rest has been ready since he made the world.

We know it is ready because of the place in the Scriptures where it mentions the seventh day: "On the seventh day God rested from all his work." But in the other passage God said, "They will never enter my place of rest."

So, God's rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God...

Like the first generation of Israelites led out of Egypt who were unable to enter the rest that was _____, so too are we at risk of missing out on God's available rest if we choose to be _____.

Hebrews 4:7 NLT

So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted:

*"Today when you hear his voice,
don't harden your hearts."*

Hosea 10:12; Psalm 95:6-7; Matthew 11:28-30

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Hebrews 4:8-10 NLT

Now if Joshua had succeeded in giving them this rest, God would not have spoken about another day of rest still to come. So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. For all who have entered into God's rest have rested from their labours, just as God did after creating the world.

Hebrews 4:11-13 NLT

So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall.

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and **he is the one to whom we are accountable.**

What are we accountable to before God? We are accountable for 3 countercultural life-defining characteristics - with regards to our pursuit of his Sabbath rest and extending into our lives as a whole:

1. _____ with God, himself

Genesis 2:1-3; Luke 6:1-11; Ephesians 3:14-15; Hebrews 4:4

2. Belief in and _____ in God's _____ for _____

Jeremiah 6:13-19; 2 Chronicles 6:28-31; Psalm 18 (*v21);
Psalm 139:14

3. _____ on God to _____ and _____

Psalm 23:1; Daniel 2:21; Luke 12:22-34; 1 Peter 5:6

Hebrews 4:14-16 NLT

So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.