


Hebrews 3:12 - 4:7

New American Standard Bible 1995

1 3¹² Take care brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil,
 2 unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. ¹³ But
 3 encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called
 4 “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the 
 5 deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ, if
 6 we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,
 7 ¹⁵ while it is said,

8 “Today if you hear His voice,
 9 Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked
 10 Me.” [Psalm 95:7b-8a]

11 ¹⁶ For who provoked *Him* when they had heard? Indeed, did not
 12 all those who came out of Egypt *led* by Moses? ¹⁷ And with
 13 whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who
 14 sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did
 15 He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who
 16 were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were not able to enter
 17 because of unbelief.

18 **4** Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering
 19 His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. ² For
 20 indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also;
 21 but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not
 22 united by faith in those who heard. ³ For we who have believed
 23 enter that rest, just as He has said,

24 “As I swore in My wrath,
 25 They shall not enter My rest,” [Psalm 95:11]


26 although His works were finished from the foundation of the
 27 world. ⁴ For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh *day*:
 28 “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”; ⁵ and
 29 again in this *passage*, “They shall not enter My rest.” ⁶ Therefore,
 30 since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had
 31 good news preached to them failed to enter because of
 32 disobedience, ⁷ He again fixes a certain day, “Today,” saying
 33 through David after so long a time just as has been said before,

34 “Today if you hear His voice,
 35 Do not harden your hearts.” [Psalm 95:7b-8a]

Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Repeated words or phrases.
- Comparisons or contrasts.
- Purpose or explanation.
- Circle any exhortations or urgings.
- Underline any dangers to watch for.
-  Star any positive incentives.
- What else do you observe in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- How would you summarize:
 - The exhortations?
 - The dangers?
 - The incentives?
- Why the repeated Q&A in v. 16-18?
- What is a hard heart?
- Why the emphasis on “rest”? What rest does he mean?
- What other questions come to your mind?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What are practical ways for you to respond to the exhortations?
- How much are you aware of the dangers?
- How important to you are the incentives?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

For additional thought and discussion:

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.