



THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

CHAPTER 3

HEBREWS 3:1-19

1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;

2 He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house.

3 For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house.

THE SECOND WORD OF WARNING — TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS

- What is the author doing as he addresses us as “holy brethren”?
- What is the meaning of the word “apostle”?
 - How does this apply to Jesus?
- What did the high priest do? (Lev. 16:3,15,33,34 / Lev. 16:8-10 / Lev. 4:3 / Lev. 6:14,15 / Ex. 27:21 / Ex. 25:30 / Ex. 28:29 / Num. 27:21)
 - How is Jesus a high priest?
- Possibilities “of our confession”...
 - “the Apostle and High Priest of the religion we profess”
 - or “him whom we confess as God’s Envoy and High Priest”
- Why is Moses being brought into this discussion in which Jesus is called an Apostle and High Priest?
 - Had Moses been sent by God with a commission?
 - What was it?
 - Did Moses ever serve as a mediator between God and men?
 - Explain...
 - How was Jesus faithful to the Father as an Apostle and High Priest?
- According to v. 3 why is faithful Jesus worthy of more glory than faithful Moses?
 - In this context, who is the builder of the “household of God”?

4 For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

5 Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later;

6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house — whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

- ...who or what is the “house”? (see v. 6)

- In what capacity was Moses faithful?
 - What is this “testimony of those things which were to be spoken of later”?

- In what capacity is Christ faithful?
 - What is the conditions given, so that we might be considered to be God’s house?
 - “hold fast our _____” (what is this?)

3954. **παρρησία** *parrēsia*; from 3956 and a derivative of 4483; all out-spokenness, i.e. frankness, bluntness, publicity; by implication, assurance: — bold

- “and the _____ of our _____” (what is this?)

2745. καύχημα *kauchēma*; from 2744; a boast (properly, the object; by implication, the act) in a good or a bad sense: — boasting, (whereof) to glory (of), glorying, rejoice(-ing).

- “firm until the _____”

7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says,

“TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,

8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME,

AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,

9 WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me,

- Where does this quote come from?
 - What did Israel hear? (see Ex. 20)
 - What are the stories that this Psalm references? (see Ex. 17:2-7 / Num 20:2-13)
 - Is it possible to both hear and harden?
 - Who specifically did Israel reject in these stories?

AND SAW MY WORKS FOR
FORTY YEARS.

10 “THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY
WITH THIS GENERATION,

AND SAID, ‘THEY ALWAYS GO
ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART,

AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY
WAYS’;

11 AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH,

‘THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY
REST.’”

12 Take care, brethren, that there not
be in any one of you an evil,
unbelieving heart that falls away
from the living God.

- Why had Israel been kept wandering in the wilderness 40 years? (see Numbers 13 and 14 — specifically 14:2)
- What is the specific reason that Israel’s generation, 20 years and older of Israel, were kept from entering the land of promise?

- What is the Hebrew writer’s implied comparison and warning?
- Is it possible for a Christian to fall away from the living God?
 - Define an “evil, unbelieving heart”...
- The Hebrew writer is comparing Christ’s redemptive work and His church to _____? Explain...

1 Cor. 4:7b
1 Peter. 1:19
1 Cor. 10:1-6
Heb. 3:7ff

13 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.

- “Encourage _____” What is implied about the “lone Christian”?
- Why is so much emphasis given to “Today”?
- What could happen, if we delayed obedience?

14 For we have become partakers of
Christ, if we hold fast the
beginning of our assurance firm
until the end,

- What does v. 14 say about good beginnings?
- How is holding fast our assurance done?

15 while it is said,

“TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,

DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME.”

16 For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses?

17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?

19 So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

- Given the context starting at v. 14 (“for if we have become partakers of Christ”), “Today” carries a new emphasis here; what is it?
- What is the answer to the questions of vv. 16, 17, & 18?
 - How did Israel provoke the LORD?
 - How could we provoke the LORD?
 - What were the consequences of rejecting Moses and of unbelief?
 - What will be the consequences of rejecting Jesus and unbelief?
- What does the writer mean by “unbelief”?

• **WHAT IS THE BIG-PICTURE SUMMARY OF THIS CHAPTER?**