

Hebrews

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May 17, 2023



Hebrews 3:7-19

Vss. 7-11

- Having made his argument that Jesus Christ is greater than the angels, greater than the prophets, and even greater than Moses, the preacher moves on to the next question: What do we do with so great a Savior? The answer is to love, trust, and obey Him.
- He begins by using a negative example: the Children of Israel whom Moses led out of Egypt. He starts by quoting Psalm 95:7-11. Here he speaks the same word of warning that the psalmist spoke to his generation hundreds of years before. "Do not make the same mistakes as the generation that followed Moses and the too many generations after that. Love God. Trust and obey Him and He will bless you! If we harden our hearts to Him and live like petulant children then terrible consequences are sure to follow.
- In vs. 8 the preacher uses a bit of Hebrew "play on words". He uses the word "provoked" and the word "trial", which translated are names of places, Massah and Meribah. The stories of how Israel provoked God and how they were tried/tempted are found in Exodus 17:1-7 and Numbers 20:1-13. It was here in Massah and Meribah that the people hardened their hearts to God, provoked God and fell into temptation and sin because things had become hard. They were out of water and they were thirsty. Their lack of planning for the need for water for the journey clearly was God's fault, not theirs. And even when God provided, that was not good enough. They had had enough of the God of their Fathers and He had had enough of them and declared they would not enter into the Promised Land. Their lack of love for God and their lack of trust and obedience resulted in them never enjoying "the place of rest" God wanted for them.

Vss. 12-14

- So the preacher exhorts his congregation to take care and do not fall to the same temptation. God has a blessing for you, a Promised Land, a place of rest for you, IF you will love Him and trust Him, and be obedient to Him.

- Encourage one another. Be a Barnabas, the “Son of Encouragement”. Lift each other up. Carry the weak. Pray for one another. Stand in the gap for each other. Love one another as Christ has loved you. By this will the Body of Christ stay strong and will be able to stand against all things when the times get hard...for hard times will come.
- And do this “as long as it is still called “Today””: in other words, while your life lasts, until the time when your day on this earth will come to a close. Be an encourager your whole life!
- And watch out for the “deceitfulness of sin”. Indeed sin is deceitful. Sin always offers empty lies and sells them as truth. Only after you have paid the price will you know just how empty what you thought you wanted really is.
- By “holding fast” with our love, trust, and obedience throughout our life, we will realize the Promise Land, the place of rest, the rich blessings God so desires to give us. Hard times are coming. Hold fast.

Vss. 15-19

- The preacher closes this section by looking closer at where the problem lay in Exodus and Numbers. We often get too comfortable with the idea of “once saved, always saved” without asking “what does it truly mean to be saved?”. The Israelites automatically assumed they were saved because they were God’s Chosen People, the Children of Abraham. Yet Jesus said that God could raise up mere stones to be Children of Abraham (Luke 3:8). So the preacher points out here that it is these very Children of Abraham who followed Moses who did not love God and were disobedient and faithless. Are you truly saved? The love of God, obedience to Him in all things, and absolute trust in Him should be your foremost qualities.