

The Epistle to the Hebrews

Hebrews 3:1-19

- Questions

1. How does the author describe the people he addresses (3:1)?
2. What two terms does the author use to describe Jesus' work between God and man (3:1)?
3. How are Jesus and Moses alike (3:2)?
4. Why is Jesus counted worthy of more glory than Moses (3:3-4)?
5. What role did Moses have in the house and what role does Jesus have over the house (3:5-6)?
6. What OT example does the author use to give his audience an admonition concerning their hearing and their hearts (3:7-11)?
7. What warning (3:12) and what exhortation (3:13) does the author give his audience based upon this OT example?
8. What must these brethren do with regard to their confidence (3:14)?
9. What words does the author use to describe why Israel was not able to enter their rest (3:15-19)?
10. What are the three questions that the author asks regarding disobedient Israel (3:16-18)?
11. What conclusion does the author reach based upon the answers to these questions (3:19)?

- Digging Deeper

1. What does "apostle" mean and why would Christ be called this (3:1)?
2. What "house" was Moses faithful in (3:5; see Num. 12:7)?

3. What OT passage is quoted in 3:7-11 and 3:15? What historical event is referred to in this passage? At what time in history was this passage written?
4. What did the author believe about the origin of OT scripture (compare 3:7 with 4:7; see also 10:15; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)?
5. What are some examples of the unbelieving Israelites provoking and testing (rebellious against) God in the wilderness (3:7-11)?
6. What is “unbelief” in this context (3:19; see 3:18; 4:6, 11)?

- Applications for Today

1. We must always live as “holy brethren” and we must always aim for the goal of our “heavenly calling” (3:1; Rom. 12:1; Phil. 3:14).
2. Our universe was built by God (Jesus), not by naturalistic evolution (3:4; Jn. 1:1-3; Rom. 1:20; Heb. 1:2,10; 11:1-3)
3. Christians are the “house” (people) of God and we must behave properly in it (3:6; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; Eph. 2:19; 1 Tim. 3:14-15; Heb. 10:21; 1 Pet. 2:5).
4. The continued salvation of a Christian is conditioned upon (“if we”) the continued faithful obedience of the Christian (3:6, 14; Gal. 6:9; 1 Jn. 1:7-9; 2:3).
5. It is important “Today” to hear Jesus and obey him (3:7, 13, 15; 2 Cor. 6:2).
6. It is possible for a Christian to fall away and be lost (3:12; Gal. 5:4; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Pet. 3:17). The doctrine of “once saved, always saved” is not taught in the scriptures.
7. Daily exhorting one another can help prevent apostasy (3:13; 1 Thess. 5:11).
8. Sin deceives by getting a person to think that his sin is ok or by blinding a person to the consequences of his sin (3:13; Eph. 4:22; 1 Pet. 2:1).
9. Christians today must be faithful all the way to the end of the race. We must “hold fast” our confession (3:1), our boldness (3:6), and our confidence (3:14) “firm unto the end” (see also Heb. 4:14; 6:11; 10:23; 1 Cor. 15:2; 1 Thess. 5:21; 2 Thess. 2:15; 2 Tim. 1:13).
10. “Unbelief” marks the beginning of one’s apostasy (falling away). The apostasy of “unbelief” can be avoided and prevented by keeping our hearing open to God’s word, by keeping our heart soft to God’s word (not hardened), and by continual obedience to God’s word (3:8,12,13,15,18,19; Deut. 1:32; Psa. 106:24).