

The Book Of Hebrews

Chapter 3 verse 7-19 - Pastor Charles A. Hall – March 17, 2022

In **Chapter 3** the author continues to build on the theme that Jesus is better than Moses based on his position as the Son of God. Therefore, He is referred to as our Apostle and High Priest. This chapter also uses references from the old testament that point to the wandering of the Israelites as a result of their disobedience and lack of trust in God, as a result God refused to allow them to enter the promised land.

7. Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice,

The author is proposing a hypothetical question to his readers, which ask if the Holy Spirit spoke to you today would you believe? Or would you lack faith like they did in the day of Moses?

8. Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

After the hypothetical question, the author tells the readers, do not harden your hearts against God, nor allow yourselves to be angry and then to be overtaken by temptation, and ultimately turn your back on God.

9. WHEN YOUR FATHERS TEMPTED ME, PROVED ME, AND SAW MY WORKS FORTY YEARS.

The author present a sharp statement of warning to the readers, when he reminds them that their fathers Tempted (tried, or enticed) God, however they witness firsthand what God did to them for 40 years, as a result of their unbelief and disobedience.

10. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

God was saddened by the generation of Israelites that were under Moses and Joshua leadership, because their hearts were filled with iniquity and disobedience against God's will, and as a result they never fully understood what God had done for them, and what He was planning to do on their behalf. In other words they never allowed God's plan to unfold in their lives.

11. So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

After the Israelites had been out of Egypt for only one month and during that time they had witnessed many miracles preformed by God, which included providing them food from heaven and water from a rock. They still did not believe nor were they obedient, as a result the anger of God toward them, caused God to make a vow, that He would forbid them from ever entering into His rest.

12. Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

The author warns the readers, who have professed their belief in Jesus Christ, to be cautious and to stay alert, and do not be deceived and allow your hearts to be filled with evil and unbelief, which will eventually turn you away from God. This action is known as apostasy, which means a deliberate departure from God's full revelation. .

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13. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

To keep from becoming like those who have evil hearts filled with unbelief we should encourage, and uphold each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, using the true word of God as the foundation of our encouragement. We should do this today, while we still have time, before our hearts are filled with sin.

14. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;

We should remain steadfast in our conversation and testimony in Christ if we want to be part of His kingdom when He returns. In other words, our ongoing relationship with Christ must be genuine and consistent over time, and always based on the truth!

15. While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

While the truth is spoken today, and when you hear His voice please do not harden your hearts, nor close God out no matter what is said or what is happen, true believers must hear and obey His voice in the midst of our storm, trials, tests, and afflictions, and yes even in a time of pandemic. Let us not turn from the living God like the Israelites did in the wilderness.

- Psalm (95:7-11)

16. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

This is sort of a rhetorical question by the author, he ask the question who came of Egypt and heard the voice of Moses and then turn against God? Did not Moses whom God spoke with, lead all the people out of Egypt, then why did they not obey, and why did they turn from God!

17. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

Again this is another rhetorical question by the author who asked the question, which he had already given the answer, who made God angry for 40 years, and as result God forbid them from entering the promise land? Then the author answers his own question, it was those who heard God voice and then harden theirs hearts with evil and unbelief and turned away from God.

- Numbers 14:2-24

18. And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

Again the author give a rhetorical question, who did God say would never go into His rest? The author then answer his own question by stating it was those who heard and did not obey.

19. So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

The author states to the readers that we should be able to detect those that were not allowed to go into God's rest, simply because they were the ones that heard, and did not trust God, nor did they obey him.