

The Superior Spokesman Belief In Him (Heb. 3:1 – 4:13)

Introduction

Having established both the divinity and humanity of Jesus, the Hebrews writer now seeks to cement in the hearts of his readers the need for belief in the Christ ... a faith that endures. To accomplish this, the author uses events with which his readers were all too familiar:

- ◆ Moses' faithfulness as a servant of God (3:3:1-6)
- ◆ Israel's rebellion in the wilderness years (3:7-19)
- ◆ Joshua's leadership into the land of rest (4:8-9)

The Hebrews writer reminds his readers of the deceitfulness of sin (3:12-13). He also exhorts them to strive toward the rest that remains for faithful followers of God and to avoid the pitfalls that led to Israel's downfall (4:6-11). Saints today would do well to heed these same words to establish our own faith in Jesus Christ and ensure our own faithfulness.

Belief In Jesus As The Son Of God (Heb. 3:1-6)

1. How does the author address his readers in 3:1a? Based on 2 Thess. 2:14, what do these "titles" state about his readers?

2. How does the author describe Jesus in 3:1b? Define "apostle." (cp. Jn. 7:16-18; 20:21) How would these references be in keeping with the overall theme of Hebrews?

3. What comparisons are made between Jesus and Moses? (3:2-6) Is there any importance to the fact that it is stated Moses was a "servant *in* the house" while Christ was the "Son *over* the house?" (3:5-6; cp. Num. 12:7; Eph. 1:22-23)

4. What "testimony" did Moses provide about things to be spoken of later? (3:5; cp. Deut. 18:18-19)

The Superior Christ & His Covenant

Lesson 3

5. What condition regulates our identification as the “house” of God? (3:6b)

The Perils Of Unbelief In Jesus (*Heb. 3:7-19*)

6. In 3:7-11, how does the author illustrate the importance of remaining faithful as the “house” of God? From where does he quote?
7. *Thought question*: do you think the writer has any 1 particular event in mind from Israel's past, or is he just reflecting on Israel's general disposition of being obstinate? What verse(s) in this section lead you to your conclusion?
8. As mentioned in 3:11, God eventually declared “*They shall not enter My rest.*” When in Israel's history did God finally say such a thing?
9. Based on this review of Israel's history, what is the author's exhortation to his readers? (3:12-15)
Thought question: what prevalent religious error does this passage refute?
10. Of what must saints be wary, and what is the remedy given to help fend off apostasy? (3:12-13) What action on a believer's part will ensure he/she will never fall away? (3:15; cp. Jn. 10:27-29)
11. What kinds of questions does the author ask in 3:16-18, and what do you suppose is the purpose for asking them? What obvious, inevitable conclusion is formed in 3:19?

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Lesson 3

Promised Rest For The Believer In Jesus (*Heb. 4:1-13*)

12. *Thought question*: how does the author “segway” from the end of 3:18-19 to 4:1a? How does that factor into his exhortation to his readers in 4:1b-2?

13. What do you think is the point of 4:3, especially the last phrase of the verse? How does 4:4-5 further prove the truth stated in 4:3?

14. How does the author restate that this “Divine rest” is still open in 4:6-7? What word does he seem to emphasize?

15. What conclusion is reached in 4:8-10? *Thought question*: what significance is the mention of “Sabbath” in 4:9?

16. How does the author bring this particular discussion to a close in 4:11, and what is the obvious application to us today?

17. What truths about God & His word are stated in 4:12-13? What relevance do you see them having in the discussion just completed?