

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

BOOK OF HEBREWS

SUPERIOR TO MOSES (HEBREWS 3:1-6)

SUPERIOR BECAUSE HE FULFILLED GOD'S PLAN

The author of Hebrews calls the readers "brothers" and "companions in a heavenly calling." We are participants in a divine plan, and citizens of a heavenly kingdom

- We're to "consider Jesus" the "High Priest," or leader of this divine plan. He's God's representative, or the "Apostle" that completes God's mission

JESUS IS THE EXAMPLE FOR US

Jesus is not only our **perfect revelation of God**, but is our **perfect revelation of how to respond to God**. Jesus displayed to us how God would live in our shoes, and how we should respond to God the Father in times of hardship and confusion.

MOSES LED THE "HOUSE OF ISRAEL," BUT HE HIMSELF WAS A PART OF THAT HOUSE.

Jesus was the Creator of all people, obviously including the "house of Israel." It is simple to understand that **the builder of the house is greater than the house.**

EXCESSIVE RESPECT TO PEOPLE

Hebrews deals with a people that gave too much respect to the deliverer of the Law, Moses. Though we are to respect people in authority, **we must understand where our authority comes from - God!**

SUPERIOR BECAUSE HE IS RULER OF THE HOUSE

Moses was a fantastic servant/leader, but Jesus was the ultimate leader because He willingly lowered Himself from heaven to serve His people.

- Moses was a servant that pointed towards the ultimate leader, Jesus. **Moses gave a revelation of God, but Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God.**

SOME SAW CHRIST AS A 2ND MOSES, BUT HEBREWS 2 CONTRASTS THAT IDEA

First, He is the Son of God, not just a called leader. Sonship carries greater responsibility. Second, Jesus stood over God's house. Moses was in God's house.

THOSE DARN CONDITIONAL SENTENCES! (V6)

We get to be a part of God's House IF we "hold on to the courage and the confidence of our hope." **We prove the genuineness of our faith by our commitment to the principles and commands of Jesus Christ.** (James 2:17-18)

REBELLION (HEBREWS 3:7-11)

LEARNING FROM THE PAST

The author of Hebrews wants the readers to examine actions and consequences of the Jews after their liberation from Egypt, and learn from the mistakes they made

- Exodus is used as a metaphor for our deliverance from sin and slavery.

AGAIN, HEBREWS USES A QUOTE FROM PSALMS

Psalms 95:7-11 is used to remind the reader about Exodus 17:1-7 and Numbers 14:20-38 that talk about the rebellion and consequences that the Jews experienced

- The author says the "Holy Spirit says" these words. This shows us **God Himself is trying to warn us not to repeat the mistakes of the past**

IF WE NEGLECT THE WARNING, WE BECOME HARD

As one rejects the instruction and call of God, their **constant resistance leads to a habit of disobedience and eventually to the judgment of God.**

- God is gracious with us, but after consistent rejection, He gives us over to the mindset and heart we long for (Romans 1:28)

FOR FORTY YEARS THE ATTITUDE OF THE LIBERATED JEWS WAS ONE OF REBELLION

God was slow to anger, but they had become entitled and selfish, and over time their repetition of rebellion led to hardened hearts.

DOES GOD REALLY GET ANGRY? YES!

God's anger does not resemble human anger. God's anger is always just and slow to arrive. God does get angry, but He tempers it with justice and love.

- The Jews habitually disobeyed, and they didn't take the time to learn God's ways.

IGNORANCE TO THE WAYS OF GOD IS NOT AN EXCUSE FOR

PERPETUAL DISOBEDIENCE

If one seeks, they **can easily find the path of God through His Word, the Church, and through personal conviction and revelation.**

- God swore conscious ignorance would negate the Jews from the Promised Land

WE TEND TO HATE THE PROCESS OF REFINEMENT

The Jews hated Moses for taking them through the wilderness to get to the Promised Land, forgetting that they had been set free.

- Christians can fall into the same selfish mindset and will despise the process that leads to eternal rest and peace. (Romans 5:3-5)

DECEPTION AND HOLDING ON (HEBREWS 3:12-14) CAN WE DEPART FROM JESUS?

Is this talking about eternal salvation or sanctification? Is the audience of this book Christians or non-Christians? It is almost certain the audience is believers, so the big question remains, can we choose to walk away from God?

THE EVIDENCE OF TRUE FAITH

Readers of Hebrews are instructed to show their faith by enduring temptations and refusing to let sin and deception harden their hearts to God.

- Some say, "If one walks away from Christ, they were never saved in the first place." The argument can be a distraction. **The point is we must continually grow in our relationship with Jesus.**

"BROTHERS" WASN'T ALL INCLUSIVE BECAUSE SOME RECIPIENTS WEREN'T GENUINE IN THEIR FAITH

Each of them had to show their conversion by refusing to deny their faith and the commands of Christ. This commitment was threatened because people were harboring sin, and **unrepentant sin leads to unbelief SIN LEADS TO UNBELIEF WHEN ONE DOES NOT TAKE SERIOUSLY**

THE COMMANDS OF GOD

Disobedience shows one doesn't truly believe in Christ. This audience was turning back to the comforts of Judaism and compromising Christianity.

- **Unbelief begins in compromise of morality and commands of Jesus.**

SO, WHAT DO WE DO? (V13)

First, we encourage each other through accountability, positive relationships, the church, loving people and being honest. Second, we stay away from sinful things.

- **Sin is deceptive!** We think we can dabble, but it leads to destruction.

BACK TO THE QUESTION OF FALLING AWAY

Merely beginning the Christian life is not sufficient to assure completion. We must continue to be committed. We've become "companions of the Messiah" showing we've been **adopted by God through Christ. Realizing this demands response.**

DEBUNKING A LIE

The idea that our conversion/salvation is simply a script recited that gives us freedom to be lazy in our faith is not biblical. Salvation is shown in a life that responds to the Gospel of Christ and is a living faith that endures until His return.

UNBELIEF (HEBREWS 3:15-19)

HE ASKS AND ANSWERS SOME QUESTIONS

First, who heard God and still rebelled? It was all the Jews that God delivered from slavery and showed miraculous signs to them.

- "If I could see God, I would believe," is apparently not the case with many

BECAUSE OF THEIR UNREPENTANT HEARTS, THEY FELL

Rebellion prohibited them from seeing the Promised Land. God fulfilled His promise to their descendants, but the generation that was freed from Egypt, saw the Red Sea part, and manna fall from heaven never received their reward

PRIVILEGED PEOPLE FELL MISERABLY INTO SIN

The author screams at our culture today; "look at the opportunities you have! Don't squander the luxury and freedom God has given you!"

- The Jews never received "His rest." Today, we often wonder why we drown in fear and depression. **Why are we so restless? Is it a disconnect from God?**

WHO WAS OFFERED THIS REST?

Everyone set free from Egypt. All the Jews were offered the Promised Land, but their rebellion negated the oath of God (though He fulfilled it in their children).

- Their failure to receive the promise of God and His rest was due to unbelief. Did they believe God existed? Yes, but they did not believe God would keep His word.

THE LINK BETWEEN DISOBEDIENCE AND DISBELIEF

Disobedience to God's Word is a visible sign of disbelief that the promises, both positive and negative, will come to fruition based on our response to God's call.

- **What we believe about God will lead us to moral change. If we demonstrate only disobedience, we show that we have unbelief.**

THE CHRISTIAN ATHEIST

- One that believes Jesus the Son of God exists, but doesn't live like He does

TRUE CHRISTIAN FAITH

- Believes that Christ can transform us. Follows the ways of Jesus and doesn't conform to the ways of mankind. Enjoys His grace, but does not abuse it. Sees His goodness, even in difficult times. Is not paralyzed by fear or anxiety. Does works, not for salvation, but as a response to being saved by grace.