

Letter to the **Hebrews**



Lesson 3-Having an Open Heart and Swift Feet towards God **Focus: Hebrews 3:1-19**

- **Christ was faithful over His House even as Moses was faithful over his (v.1-6)**
 - *To the Jews, Moses was an extremely important figure!! (Matthew 22:24; 23:2; Luke 16:31; **John 5:45-47**, "...he wrote of me."; **9:28,29**). Moses and his writings were at the center of the Jewish faith! He was the primary figure to which they gave respect as the source of their Law and faith writings. His writings were the basis from which all the prophets gained their faith and lived by. Even to this very day, Moses and his writings lie at the heart of the Jewish faith! For Christians, Moses is also an important figure, as many others, but **at the heart of our faith is Jesus Christ!!** Our faith is in the Messiah, Jesus, or Yeshuah! All other figures in the Bible pale in comparison to our Savior Christ Jesus! Each has their importance and place, but Christ holds the very center of our love and faith! The author of Hebrews here places Christ Jesus beside the figure of Moses, and then shows us how Jesus is superior in every way, thus bringing the faith of Jewish believers to be placed and centered upon Jesus Christ, rather than upon Moses. Even Moses and Elijah, the essence of the Law and the Prophets, give their worship to Jesus and point all to Him! (See Matthew 17:1-8, God was working to move along the faith of all men, from merely looking at the prophetic figures of the past, to actually looking at the Son of God, the Messiah! Not to in any way discredit their work or to undermine it, but to realize that they were all pointing to Jesus and that we should put Jesus Christ as the center of our faith while seeing that all the prophets were pointing to Him). **"A greater than Moses" has now come—Christ Jesus!!** (v.3)*
 - (v.4,5) Moses was a faithful man who entered the "rest" of God through faith (e.g. Heb. 11:24-25). As Moses was faithful, so Christ is faithful to us!!
- **The urgency and importance of receiving Jesus and not rejecting Him is here stressed (v.7-15)**
 - *The voice of appeal always pleads for TODAY! Actions should be taken today! Do not put it off. We should not wait! None of us knows what a single day may bring forth! (See **Proverbs 27:1**). **We must be very careful not to push our own way, or to reject the way of God's leading!** Such a terrible sin would have disastrous results, even as we have seen in the history of Israel! There are many who have doubted the providential leading of God, and Satan himself would have it to be so. Even in the face of the clearest evidences of God's power and leading, yet still, Satan would lead men and women to reject the clear light which God has given, to hesitate, and to doubt, and to provoke God to most certain anger! We must learn to trust God and to act quickly when we see the truth coming, and when the Holy Spirit is clearly impressing us! To hesitate is dangerous! David said, **"I made haste and delayed not to keep your commandments!"** (Psalm*

119:60). Jesus said, "A little while is the light with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness come upon you..." (See **John 8:12; 12:35**).

- **Israel was in a provocation against God.** They did not believe, trust, or follow Him as they should have, and the result was very negative! They did not exercise faith as it should have been exercised. The story is found in **Numbers 13:25-14:4,33**. They saw Giants and feared. They heard the bad testimony of others that discouraged them. The same could happen to us. Let us be careful and let us encourage one another. They ended up going back out into the desert. They were neither here nor there. They did not go fully back into Egypt, the world, but they did not go into the Promised Land either. They were stuck in between. Many within Christianity today are stuck in the same place, not here or there in their faith experience. They have failed to enter God's promised rest. They have failed to advance in the pathway of holiness and to overcome sin. By faith we must march into the Promised Land and take what God has been offering us! The "giants" in our lives must be overcome by faith in Christ's power (not our own)! Do not let past failures discourage you. Christ will give us victory! Jesus came to set the captives free! He came to deliver us from the bondage of sin, and the burden of trying to obtain acceptance from God by our own works—both are bondage. Let us accept Christ by Faith, trust His promises, and know that He will give us the victory! "And this is the victory that overcomes the world—even our faith!" (1 John 5:4). Let us not reject God's deliverance only to return into slavery to sin, as some tried to do in the days of Moses, and with Egypt! Let us have faith in God and seize hold on His promises!
- **The History of Israel tells the sad story of doubt, unbelief, disobedience, and failure to receive God's truest blessings in their lives (v.16-19)**
 - Looking at the history of Israel should make us to think about the need to follow God and to trust His word. And also of the importance to act at the correct time in faithful obedience to the voice and the word of God! Because of doubt, disbelief, and lack of faith in the power and the commands of God, the people were caught up in sin and lost the pure blessing that God had desired to give them. Let us be careful that it would not be so with us. We must learn carefully from this example, and realize that we have weaknesses that are common to theirs. **Let us not be proud and think ourselves to be above such temptations!** We are all humans and **we are all weak in a number of ways**, but let us pray that we do not doubt God and His leading, nor that would disobey Him and His righteous voice! (**Matthew 23:29-33; 1 Corinthians 10:10-13**).
 - God wants us to enter into a spiritual "rest." Christ said we should all come to Him and find our rest (Matthew 11:28). These failed to enter into Christ's rest in the Promised Land, because they did not take it by faith. We also could fail to enter Christ's spiritual rest if we fail to accept it by faith! We must obtain our peace in God through Christ Jesus (Romans 5:1).

Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your desire and prayer to have a pure heart before God and to act promptly in obedience to the voice of His word? _____