

# THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE REVELATION OF GOD

5 December 2021

Chapter 3:12-4:13

## Verse of the Day:

*For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. (Hebrews 3:3)*

**Review:** Who, What, When, Where, & Why?

## What's Going on Here?

A glance back at the Old Testament will provide the historical setting for this section of Hebrews. The people of Israel took 40 years to accomplish what could have been done in about two weeks. Why did it take them so long? Unbelief! They decided to follow their own way instead of God's way. Sin deceived them into thinking they knew better than God. That led to hardening of their hearts.

The writer clearly states the consequences and punishment of sin. While Israel could have been living a healthy life in a land flowing with milk and honey, the people instead lay dead in the wilderness as God administered divine discipline. Clearly the Lord is displeased with every act of disobedience, rebellion, and unbelief. The warning of this lesson comes to us as fresh today as it came almost 2,000 years ago. God realizes that we need the kind of warning that will keep us alert to the things we cannot afford to forget.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup> For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. <sup>15</sup> As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts as in the  
rebellion.”

<sup>16</sup> For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? <sup>17</sup> And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

v12: Take care that you don't end up like the people who died in the wilderness (c.f. v16-19).

v15: Psalm 95

v16: c.f. Exodus 20:18–21

What was the final event that caused the Israelites to begin their 40 year wanderings? Why is this a fitting analogy for us?

<sup>1</sup> Kramin, Howard (1997). God's Word for Today: Hebrews (p. 22). St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House. Reproducible by purchaser only.

<p>4 <u>Therefore</u>, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. <sup>2</sup>For <u>good news</u> came to us just as to them, but the message <u>they heard</u> did not benefit them, because they were not <u>united by faith</u> with those <u>who listened</u>. <sup>3</sup>For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest,’ ”</p> <p>although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. <sup>4</sup>For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” <sup>5</sup>And again in this passage he said,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“They shall not enter my rest.”</p> <p><sup>6</sup>Since therefore <u>it remains for some</u> to enter it, and those who <u>formerly received</u> the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, <sup>7</sup>again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”</p> <p><sup>8</sup>For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. <sup>9</sup>So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup>for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.</p> <p><sup>11</sup>Let us therefore <u>strive</u> to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. <sup>12</sup>For the <u>word of God</u> is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and <u>discerning</u> the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.</p>	<p>v4:1-2 – What Calvinistic teaching does this contradict?</p> <p>v2: c.f. heard vs listened, what’s the difference?</p> <p>v3: c.f. Psalm 95, why don’t they get to enter into His rest?</p> <p>v6: How are we saved, how are we damned? How does this present a paradox?</p> <p>v8: c.f. Judges 2:16–23 (esp v 20-23).</p> <p>v11: How do we fulfill this encouragement to “strive?”</p> <p>v12: What form of the “word of God” might the author be referring to here?</p> <p>v12: discern also means judge, what tools performs this judging?</p> <p>v13: How does this put an ironic twist on the actions of Adam and Eve after they sinned?</p>
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