

Hebrews 3

vs 1 Consider / fix your thoughts = *katanoein* Same word Jesus used in Lk 12:24
Look down into to learn a truth.

Apostle = *apostolos* This is the only reference to Christ as an apostle, one who is sent forth as a representative, with the authority and backing of the King. Story of Antiochus Epiphanes King of Syria and Popilius, Roman Apostle. First position in the church 1Co 12:28

High Priest The Latin word *pontifex* means bridge builder, representing God to man and man to God, a repeated theme in Hebrews.

vs2 Quoting Nu 12:7 (always quoting the Word) House = *Oikes* family or building Both meanings in Hebrew and Greek. How appropriate! Moses is a part of the foundation of the House of God and part of the Family of God of which Christ is the cornerstone, the elder brother, the builder.

vs3 Moses was special to the Jew as he spoke mouth to mouth with God, received the revered Law, the Jewish Rabbi say that "faithful in all his house" places him superior to angels, but here the author is placing Jesus infinitely above Moses!

vs 4 The building is only the reality of some of the thoughts of the builder.

vs 5&6 IF Hold on to your courage, boast of our great hope. It is a much greater hope than that of any other faith. HOLD ON TO is another nautical term, used in Acts 27:40, 'holding one's course toward'. It reminds me of Jesus, who we are to observe carefully. His direction, Calvary. Lk 9:51

vs 7-19 An exhortation: Provocation/Day of Temptation = Massah & Meribah Ex 17:1-7 and Nu 20:1-13 The lessons God offers and leads but we must be brought to a place of need to learn faith and the provision of God. Trust and Obey! There is a time limit. Guard your heart always! vs8,10,12,15 warn of the hardening of the heart.

The rebellion: In the Exodus reference the people tested God. Instead of trusting after all they had experienced, they asked, "Is the Lord among us or not?" They were demanding that God show his hand. This hardening of the heart is playing god, demanding God conform to my will. This is a heart that determines to forget the attributes and trustworthy nature of our faithful and loving God and demands what we immediately desire. This temptation is common to us all when we are led through a time of difficulty. In verse 12 the sinful heart is the word *poneros* and is an active opposition to good.

vs 13 We need to encourage each other especially in the times of trial to not let our hearts turn this way. It says to do it daily. Who do you know that needs a word of encouragement today?

vs 14 "share in" *metachoi* means to participate with. We are co-laborers with Christ, a cooperative partner in his work of sending salvation and hope to the ends of the earth. IF used so many times in Hebrews. "confidence" is the same word in Heb 11:1 "sure of" The chapter ends pointing out how the Israelites gave in to that sin of letting go of the hope, what we were sure of at first, and giving way to a heart that is doubting God, to one that is in rebellion towards God.

Set your course. Do not waver, regardless of the wind and waves of life! We have a heavenly reward, a hope greater than any other!

4:1-10 Fear of missing out in vs 1 calls us to alert discipline. vs 2 A Word however great is of no avail unless it becomes part of the hearer.

The three uses of rest were typical of academic thought of the time: peace of God, Promised Land, Rest of God The promise of the Rest of God for his people still holds - the danger is we fail to reach it! The Children of Israel failed in Nu 13 &14 to enter the Promised Land. Rabbi seeing no evening of the seventh day of creation say God's rest continues. The Children of Israel finally enter in but there is no fulfillment of the promise, Ps 95:7-11 100s of years later there is still a rest to enter into. Thus God's today still exists, the promise is still open to you. While you have life through faith enter into the very rest of God.

Another thought on the same verses is to beware lest thinking you have come too late in History - the great works of God past - HE'S THE SAME

vs 11-13 The Word of God has energetic life, it lays open your physical life force and your Spiritual life force, your movement, your framework, your very thoughts and intentions. Nothing is hid, we are naked and skinned

OR made to look into His penetrating gaze!

In vs 13 Lit to whom is our word. A play on words, If our live conform to the Word of God then our word (account) in the day of judgment will be acceptable to God.

vs 14-16 Whew! We need these three verses to follow the last three! Here is the great claim of the letter. Jesus perfectly knows you and God, and he can bring you into God's presence. There is no trial or pain you can endure that he cannot fully relate to!