

Hebrews chapter 3

Jesus compared to Moses
and

Who gets to enter the Promised Land

Therefore, **holy** brothers, who share in the heavenly calling,
fix your thoughts on Jesus,

Our call is FROM heaven and FOR heaven

So our focus in order to fulfil it has to be on Jesus

the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

Sent (the apostle)
the apostles (12)
apostles then and today

High priest (to be considered later in the letter)
Representative before the Father

We confess (agree with God's description)

He was faithful to the one who appointed him,

Jesus fulfilled all he had been sent to do

just as Moses was faithful in all God`s house.

God gave Moses his job (faithful –his failings not mentioned)

God`s house = household – family
(people not buildings)

Jesus has been found worthy of greater honour than Moses,

Most mentioned person in the Bible?

Abraham 180 times

Moses 800 times (716 in OT, 84 in NT)

Jesus 1251 times (only in NT !)

Comparing the great OT figure with Jesus

Jesus is better!

just as the builder of a house has greater honour than the house itself.

The architect/builder admired for his building

Moses did his part

Jesus is the master builder/architect

For every house is built by someone,
but God is the builder of everything.

Things don't just appear - cause and effect

The ultimate Creator is God Himself.

Moses was faithful as a servant in all God`s house,
testifying to what would be said in the future.

Moses a servant (an honourable title!)

A prophet

Cf. Deuteronomy 18:14, 34:10

Deuteronomy 34:10-12 Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, who did all those signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt--to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

testifying to what would be said in the future.

John 1:45 Philip found Nathanael and told him,
"We have found the one Moses wrote about in the
Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus
of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

But Christ is faithful as a son over God`s house.

Jesus is the faithful SON, rather than just as a servant

Son and heir versus chief butler of an estate

And we are his house,
if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

We are his people – family

Warning! Don't abandon your faith

Ingredients needed – Courage (not always easy)
- Hope (confident expectation)

So, as the Holy Spirit says..

He is going to quote Psalm 95 – the author is unknown

But note the writer's view of the author of the Scriptures

"Today, if you hear his voice,

NOW

Ears to hear?

The relevant voice of the Holy Spirit

Revelation 2:7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

do not harden your hearts as **you** did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did.

Rebellion!

It seems for some to have been an on-going resentment

“you” community of nation by generations

Hidden message – Don't test God!

That is why I was angry with that generation,

1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

and I said, `Their hearts are always going astray,
and they have not known my ways.`

It's a heart problem they had.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.

To know God's ways implies a close personal fellowship

So I declared on oath in my anger, `They shall never enter my rest.`"

Hebrews 10:30-31 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

So I declared on oath in my anger, `They shall never enter my rest.`"

Rest in the land? After Egypt and the desert! Home

Promise of eternal rest (later in the letter)

But now in Jesus

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

The writer's warning:

The focus is on the heart issue again

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Do Not turn from the TRUE God and Saviour

1 John 2:23 No one who denies the Son has the Father.
Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today,

Today is NOW

Encourage ...

As long as Time is running out

so that none of you may be hardened by sin`s deceitfulness.

Help each other to stay 'soft', sensitive to God

Sin repeated hardens the soul (it says it won't but it does)

We have come to share in Christ
if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

Proof of real genuine faith – keeps going

Firmly (there will be challenges along the journey)

As has just been said.. "Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."

A reminder of the danger of hardening.

Who were they who heard and rebelled?
Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt?

Question and answer

They all made a good start

(generalised use of the word “all” does not include
eg. Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Caleb, Joshua etc.)

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive
yourselves. Do what it says.

And with whom was he angry for forty years?
Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert?

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest
if not to those who disobeyed?

Implied warning to his listeners (us too)

Don't do it!

So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Questions

How do we fix our thoughts on Jesus?

Daily encouragement? What should we do?
How do we find the time?

Why does the writer emphasise the human responsibility side of Salvation?

What is the difference between doubt and unbelief?