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By Dan Maines

## Hebrews 3

### Hebrews 3:1

Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession: Jesus.

† The writer addresses believers as holy and called by heaven. He points them to Jesus, the true Apostle (sent one) and High Priest. Unlike Moses, who served as a mediator, Jesus is both the messenger and the high priest of the New Covenant.

† Origen (Homilies on Hebrews 1) noted that Christ is called Apostle because He was sent by the Father, and High Priest because He mediates on behalf of His people.

### **Hebrews 3:2**

He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house.

† Both Jesus and Moses were faithful, but their roles were different. Moses was a servant in God's house, but Jesus is the Son over it.

† Josephus (Antiquities 3.15.1) describes Moses as faithful over God's house, highlighting why the comparison mattered to a Jewish audience.

† Philo (On the Life of Moses 2.290) praised Moses' faithfulness, but Hebrews points to Jesus as even greater.

### **Hebrews 3:3**

For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of the house has more honor than the house.

† Jesus is superior to Moses. Moses was part of the house of Israel, but Jesus is the builder of the house. The builder deserves greater honor than the structure itself.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 8.4-6) describe the community as God's house, a people being built up. Hebrews shows that Christ is the true builder of this house.

### **Hebrews 3:4**

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

† God is the ultimate builder, and Jesus shares in that divine role. His work was not to maintain the old house but to build the new one through His covenant.

### **Hebrews 3:5**

Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, for a testimony of those things that were to be spoken later.

† Moses was faithful, but his service pointed forward to something greater. His role was testimony, a shadow of Christ to come.

† Philo (On Moses 2.292) noted Moses' role as a servant of God's laws, but Hebrews shows his work was preparatory, awaiting fulfillment in Christ.

### **Hebrews 3:6**

But Christ was faithful as a Son over His house, whose house we are, if we hold firmly to our confidence and the boast of our hope.

† Christ is not a servant but a Son, and we are His house. Believers are God's dwelling if they remain steadfast in faith and hope.

† Chrysostom (Homilies on Hebrews 5) stressed that Christ's sonship makes Him supreme, while we must persevere in faith to remain His house.

### **Hebrews 3:7-8**

Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as on the day of trial in the wilderness."

† Quoting Psalm 95, the writer warns against hardening hearts like Israel in the wilderness. The Spirit calls believers to respond today with faith and obedience.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (CD 3.2-3) warned against hardening the heart and rejecting God's ways, echoing this exact language.

### **Hebrews 3:9-10**

"Where your fathers put Me to the test, and saw My works for

forty years. Therefore I was angry with this generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart, and they did not know My ways.'"

† The wilderness generation saw God's works but remained faithless. Their rebellion led to God's anger and their exclusion from the promised land.

† Josephus (Wars 4.314) compared the rebellion of his own generation against Rome to the wilderness rebels, showing how this warning still carried weight.

### **Hebrews 3:11**

"As I swore in My anger, they certainly shall not enter My rest."

† God's judgment was final: the disobedient would not enter His rest. The writer applies this to warn the audience about failing to enter Christ's rest.

† Rabbinic tradition (Midrash Tehillim 95) also linked this verse to Israel's disobedience, recognizing it as a perpetual warning.

### **Hebrews 3:12**

Take care, brothers and sisters, that there will not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

† The warning becomes personal. Unbelief leads to falling away from God. The audience was being exhorted to faithfulness, lest they repeat Israel's failure.

† Philo (Allegorical Interpretation 3.82) warned that unbelief leads to alienation from the divine, echoing the truth in Hebrews.

### **Hebrews 3:13**

But encourage one another every day, as long as it is still called "today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

† Daily encouragement was necessary to guard against sin's deceitfulness. The call of "today" is urgent, reminding them not to delay obedience.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 23) also exhorted believers not to delay but to act while it is "still called today," echoing Hebrews' urgency.

† Seneca (Letters 101.8) remarked that delay is the greatest danger to the soul, showing how even Roman writers saw procrastination as deadly.

### **Hebrews 3:14**

For we have become partakers of Christ if we keep the beginning of our confidence firm until the end.

† True partakers of Christ endure to the end. Perseverance is the proof of genuine faith.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Ephesians 14) urged believers to remain steadfast to the end, warning that failing to do so would forfeit their inheritance.

### **Hebrews 3:15**

While it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me."

† The warning is repeated for emphasis. Hardening the heart is the great danger, as it leads to unbelief and exclusion from God's rest.

### **Hebrews 3:16-17**

For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness?

† Israel's failure is recounted. Even those who experienced deliverance from Egypt rebelled and perished in the wilderness. Their example serves as a warning.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (CD 1.3-4) compared their own community to the wilderness generation, seeing rebellion as the greatest danger. Hebrews warns in the same way.

### **Hebrews 3:18-19**

And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, except to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

† The conclusion is clear: unbelief leads to disobedience, and disobedience leads to exclusion from God's rest. The audience was called to faith, not rebellion.

† Origen (Homilies on Psalms 95) explained that the true rest was not Canaan but Christ Himself. Hebrews confirms this by pointing the audience to the greater rest in the Son.

### **Application For Us Today**

† Hebrews 3 shows that the greatest danger is not persecution from outside, but unbelief within. Just as Israel failed in the wilderness, so too can people today fail by hardening their hearts against Christ.

† The call of "today" still applies. We live in the day of salvation, in the kingdom Christ established. To delay obedience or to compromise with sin is to greatest risk of all.

† Moses was a servant in God's house, but Christ is the Son over it. This reminds us that traditions and human leaders, no matter how great, cannot compare to Christ's authority.

† Daily encouragement is vital. In a world full of deception, believers must strengthen one another to remain faithful to fulfilled truth.

† The danger of unbelief applies especially to futurism. By expecting another covenant, another rest, or another coming,

futurists repeat the same unbelief that barred Israel from entering God's rest.

## † This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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