**Lesson Three**

[**Hebrews 3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3&t=NKJV)

From the beginning to the end Hebrews sites the experience of the Israelites and their **failure to receive their promised inheritance in their Promised Land, Canaan**. And from beginning to end it uses their failures as an example, type, for us to heed so we **Christians don't fail to receive our promised inheritance in our Promised Land, the Millennial Kingdom**.

**God uses** these examples, types, to make up **five major admonitions** [**do this**] -- **warnings** [**don't do this**] to help us run our race [of faith] successfully so we can attain to our high calling to reign as co-heirs with Christ. The purpose is to make us successful in our life of faith and keep us from turning back, shrinking back, losing heart, giving up and forfeiting our reward or, in the words of Paul, "be disqualified."

**A quick review of what** [**Hebrews 1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1&t=NKJV)**;** [**2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2&t=NKJV) **tell us:**

In [Hebrews 1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1&t=NKJV) God begins the comparison:

Long ago He spoke to Fathers through prophets. In these last days He has spoken to us through His Son. His son is the radiance of His Glory and the exact representation of His Nature. Through His Son the world was made and He upholds all things by the Word of His Power. Because this Son humbled Himself to be made "*for a little while, a little lower than the angels*" in order to make purification of sins, God has highly exalted Him above angels and appointed Him heir of all things. ([Hebrews 1:1-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.1-4&t=NKJV))

Reviewing the O.T. scriptures cited in [Hebrews 1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1&t=NKJV), we learn:

God will bring this first born Son back into the world.

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This glorified Son will rule the world in righteousness.

Christ's anointing will be with the "Oil of Gladness."

He will have companions in His reign whose anointing with the "Oil of Gladness" will be less than His.

Though the earth be destroyed and changed, He will remain.

When He returns to reign angels will worship/serve Him.

Even now angels are sent out to render service for the sake of those who are on the path to becoming co-heirs with Christ – those who are heirs of salvation. In that day of His glorious reign, all enemies will be made a foot stool for His feet.

[Hebrews 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2&t=NKJV) begins to show us why we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard. The reasoning goes like this:

God has spoken to us about His plan and His calling for us, just as He spoke to the children of Israel about His plan and calling for them.

They did not take heed to what God said, therefore they have received and are still receiving a just recompense for their actions.

God expects us to pay close attention to His plan for us, **the greatest thing He has ever designed for redeemed man** – His high calling / heavenly calling – lest we, like the Israelites have to suffer painful consequences for our actions.

We are told in [Hebrews 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2&t=NKJV) the topic of discussion in Hebrews is "**THE WORLD TO COME**." Also that man, not angels will rule the world to come.

The man Christ Jesus has now been exalted from His humble position as Savior and is now in position to take His place as King of Kings and Lord of Lords over the world.

He is now waiting as He works with His Father, who is bringing many Sons to glory, *i.e*. many believers to become co-heirs/co-rulers with Christ.

Jesus, in His earthly ministry, died, not only for the sins of man, but to break Satan's power over man.

Since Jesus, as a man, experienced, to the extreme, the same kinds of trials and temptations to which we are exposed, He fully understands our situation and empathizes with us. He is totally qualified as our great High Priest, to make propitiation for our sins and to give us help in time of need.

[Hebrews 2:1-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.1-4&t=NKJV) **contains the first exhortation/warning in Hebrews**. The reasons for this exhortation are:

We have heard vastly "better things" than those spoken of in old time by the apostles to the Fathers, and the one speaking is the Son Himself, by whom and through whom all things were created.

**At the beginning of** [**Hebrews 3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3&t=NKJV)**, we receive another exhortation:**

[Hebrews 3:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.1&t=NKJV) – *Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling,* ***consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession****.*

He is speaking to "**holy brethren**." What does that tell you? He is speaking to **believers**.

They are [we are] partakers of a heavenly calling. What does that tell you? They [we] are partaking of a heavenly calling, a high calling, and they [we] are being encouraged to press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling – to rule as co-heirs with Christ. ([Philippians 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.14&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 1:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.18&t=NKJV); [Philippians 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+1.6&t=NKJV))

Consider two aspects of Jesus' ministry, the **apostle** and **high priest** of our confession.

Since we have the opportunity to be companions/partakers with Christ in His heavenly calling, we should consider carefully **all that Christ did** (**life, death, burial, resurrection, etc.**)

**And we should give much thought to the benefits we receive from Christ in His present ministry as *high priest* as we come boldly to the Throne of Grace**.

Note the two admonitions -- **pay close attention** and **consider Jesus is high priest** -- appear in [Hebrews 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2&t=NKJV); [3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3&t=NKJV). They appear again at the end of the book, [Hebrews 12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12&t=NKJV), to emphasize their importance.

[Hebrews 12:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.2&t=NKJV) - *fixing our eyes* (pay close attention) *on Jesus, the author and perfecter* (apostle) *of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

What are we to fix our eyes on that motivated Jesus Christ to run His race successfully? He fixed His eyes on the joy of the kingdom that was to be established. We are to do the same.

[Hebrews 12:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.25&t=NKJV) is the repeat of the **first admonition/warning**:

*See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him* [Moses] *who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.*

**Apostle and High Priest**

An over simplified version:

Jesus, the **apostle/author**, paid the price for us to enter into the live of faith [salvation] through forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God. Now Jesus, the **high Priest/finisher**, is offering help to "work out our salvation" during the course of our lives. ([Philippians 2:5-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+2.5-10&t=NKJV))

[**Hebrews 3:2-4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.2-4&t=NKJV)**:**

*He* [Jesus Christ] *was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was* [faithful] *in all His house*. (Faithful Moses *cf.* [Exodus 40:6-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+40.6-21&t=NKJV), [23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+40.23&t=NKJV), [27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+40.27&t=NKJV), [29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+40.29&t=NKJV) [32-33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+40.32-33&t=NKJV))

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

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

So now after a comparison of Moses and Jesus, let's have a comparison of the **House of Moses** and the **House of Christ**.

*Who would you reason is the House of Moses?* **It's the millions of Israelites who came out of Egypt**, crossed the Red Sea and headed for the Promised Land.

And who would you reason is the House of Christ? **It's Believers**.

Testimony of the House of Moses:

**Testimony (future): a negative testimony to us and those of the church age:**

How not to run the Christian race.

How not to live the life of faith.

How not to lay hold of that for which we were layed hold of by Christ.

How not to press on toward the goal for the prize.

**Moses as a type of Christ:**

Moses was faithful as a servant, for a testimony of things spoken later ([Exodus 40:16-33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+40.16-33&t=NKJV)). Despite the disobedience and unbelief of the people, Moses was faithful.

[**Hebrews 3:5-6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.5-6&t=NKJV) – (Another admonition):

*Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant [of God], for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later;*

*but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house--whose house we are,* ***IF*** *we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.*

Repeating previous questions:

Who would you reason compose the House of Christ?

Are they believers? Yes.

Is it all believers or some believers? Some believers.

(Those that compose the House of Christ will all be believers, but not all believers will be in the House of Christ.)

Which believers, according to these passages, will be included in Christ's House?

The believers who hold **fast their confidence** that God will bring us through various trials and into His Kingdom as a co-heir. It is also necessary they **continue to the end** to maintain the boasting / rejoicing of their hope of ruling in the Kingdom of Christ as a co-heir.

[**Hebrews 3:7-11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.7-11&t=NKJV)**:**

*Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,*

*DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,* (*cf.* [1 Corinthians 10:1-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+10.1-12&t=NKJV))

*WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me, 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';*

*AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'"*

PROVOCATIONS:

[Numbers 14:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+14.11&t=NKJV), [23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Numbers+14.23&t=NKJV)

a) "Have not harkened to my voice."

b) People murmured and complained – the starting point of departing from the living God.

Paul: "I have learned in whatsoever state I am in to be content." Contentment must be learned!

c) Complained about manna [Word of God]. Desired to return to Egypt to satisfy the natural appetite [Types of those believers Paul speaks of in [Philippians 3:18-19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.18-19&t=NKJV), "*whose end is destruction, whose God is their appetite, whose glory is their shame, who set their minds on earthly things*."]

d) And they tempted God in their heart by asking for meat for their lusts, "*Because they believed not in God and trusted not His salvation though He had commanded clouds from above, and rained down manna for them to eat, their heart was not right with them*.

e) They did not believe His promise to defeat enemies. They sent in spies, but then refused to go in.

[**Hebrews 3:12-14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.12-14&t=NKJV)**:**

*Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.*

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

*For we have become partakers* [companions, co-heirs, fellows] *of Christ,* ***IF*** *we hold fast the beginning of our* ***assurance*** *firm until the end* [of our pilgrimage].

Assurance of what? God will do what he has said. (*cf*. [Hebrews 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.6&t=NKJV))

[**Hebrews 3:15-19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.15-19&t=NKJV)**:**

*while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME."*

*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 bodies fell in the wilderness?*

*And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?*

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

What was the problem from which came the murmuring, complaining, and discontentment?

**UNBELIEF**!

**Lesson for us:**

We *can* become co-heirs with Christ **IF** we *hold fast* *our assurance firm unto the end;*

That is: what God has determined to be His will for our lives concerning the *age to come*. He will *bring it to pass*. **IF** I trust Him for it – *it WILL happen!!!!*