



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Hebrews 3

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Hebrews 3.

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**INTRODUCTION:** this letter is written to Hebrews who had been enlightened, endured sufferings, been publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, stood alongside others who were persecuted, had compassion on those in prison and joyfully accepted others plundering their property (probably the Romans) knowing they had an eternal possession (Heb. 10:31-36). It appears they had a faith in Christ, but were still bound by the Levitical priesthood and the Jewish religious system and because of this the author brilliantly uses Moses Tabernacle, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place and Old Testament Scriptures to prove Jesus is the only High Priest anyone needs and that it is by faith in Christ and God's grace not religious works that God's people are counted righteous. The blessing of this letter is not limited to the Hebrews since everyone who is seeking God or who is a brother or sister of Christ will be overwhelmingly awed as they read this well-crafted and awe-inspiring letter as it beautifully progresses through the chapters proving Jesus is the Christ (probably written about A.D. 68).

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### Topics.

- Jesus Christ is the apostle and high priest of our confession.
- Sharing in the heavenly calling.
- The builder of all things is God.
- Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses.
- We are his house if we hold fast our confidence in our hope.
- Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.
- They shall not enter my rest.

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**The previous chapter:** in the previous chapter the author warned about neglecting God's great salvation and talked of the eternal Saviour the Son of God being made lower than the angels. He said the founder of salvation was made perfect through suffering; God has subjected the world to mankind and is bringing many sons to glory; Jesus destroyed the power of the devil and it is not angels Christ came to help but the sons of Abraham.

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**NOTE:** for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### HEBREWS 3:1

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#### Jesus Christ is the Apostle and High Priest of our Confession.

- **Hebrews 3:1:** Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession.

The word therefore links us to the previous chapter in which we were warned not to neglect such a, great salvation and told that Christ has defeated the one who had power over death (eternal) and that God through this great salvation is bringing many sons to eternal glory who Jesus is not ashamed to call his brothers and sisters.

**Holy brothers:** the words, holy brothers, refers to those who are in Christ, it embraces every brother and sister who trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ for righteousness that leads to eternal life. They are called holy not because they are without sin, but because God imputes righteousness to all who are in the family of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is one of the reasons the author of Hebrews in the previous chapter called the Christian message a, great salvation.

**Sharing in the heavenly calling:** here is the stunning glory, wonder and splendour of God's eternal message kept for us in the Canon of the Bible. The heavenly calling all those in Christ will share in refers to the oath the LORD God made to Abraham thousands of years ago. God promised Abraham that He would make of him a great nation and that he would be the father of a multitude of nations. God swore by an oath that Abraham's offspring would be as the dust of the earth and the stars of heaven so that they could not be numbered and that God Himself would be their God. The LORD God confirmed this promise to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their offspring after them throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant promising Abraham that in his offspring all the nations of the earth would be blessed and that his seed (being Christ) would inherit the world.

(Gen. 12:1-3) (Gen. 13:14-17) (Gen. 15:4-7) (Gen. 17:1-8)  
(Gen. 22:15-18) (Deut. 9:5).

Now the majestic wonder, glory and beauty of God's promise is revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul wrote that the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. that is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all Abrahams offspring—not only to the adherents of the law (referring to the Jews) but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham (referring to the Gentiles), who is the father of us all (Jews and Gentiles), as it is written:

- I have made you (Abraham) the father of many nations—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist” (creation and the resurrection) (Rom. 4:17).

In hope Abraham believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told:

- So shall your offspring be.

Paul tells us that:

- The twelve tribes of Israel earnestly worshipped night and day hoping to attain to this promise (Acts 26:7).

And then gloriously points out that the Scripture does not say: -

- And to offsprings,

Referring to many, but referring to one:

- And to your offspring, who is Christ” (Gal 3:16).

Some may think the promises made to Abraham was for the Jews only, but Paul magnificently explains in the book of Galatians that the promises of God have been extended to all nations through being baptised into the Lord Jesus Christ and clearly shows that the promises made to Abraham and to his seed the Lord Jesus Christ are not limited to the Jews only, but embraces whoever will come to God through faith in Christ (Rom. 4:13) (Rom. 4:16-18) (Gal. 3:16) (Gal. 3:27). For further information see the title:

- Commonwealth of Israel (at the end of this chapter).

The beginning of this promise God made to Abraham began to be fulfilled when Christ was born and continues to be fulfilled through Christ's death and resurrection and continues to flow like river that cannot be stopped to an even greater climax when Christ returns as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

But this is not the end of God's glorious eternal promise to Abraham since its ultimate fulfilment will be at the end of Christ's millennial reign when all things are subjected to Christ then he will also be subjected to God (1 Cor. 15:27-28) so that God will be, ALL in ALL. The phrase, God will be ALL in ALL refers to the glorious and majestic vision of a godly man named John on the isle of Patmos who wrote:

- I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more and I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new (Rev. 20:11) (Rev. 21:1-5).

This is the splendour, the glory the wonder and the climax of God's promise to Abraham made many thousands of years ago and the heavenly inheritance of all who are children of Abraham by faith and brothers and sisters of Christ. Is there any other religion on earth that proclaims such a glorious eternal hope? (This author has not found one). The Good News of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in sharp clearness proclaims that the stunning splendour of this glory is not dependent on our abilities and talents or our lack of them since God in His wisdom has made salvation to eternal life and everlasting glory available to all, not by our own self-effort, but through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and God's grace can there be any better news than this, "I think not" thus the reason the Gospel of Christ is called the Good News. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).

- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**Consider Jesus, the apostle and High Priest of our confession:** the author encourages every brother and sister in Christ to pause for a moment and take time to "Consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession" (v1) i.e., High Priest of our faith and our lives.

- Consider; the glorious truth, Jesus is the High Priest of our faith, not a human mortal man on earth who is not only corrupted with indwelling sin but also dies and is replaced by another mortal man.
- Consider; Jesus is eternal, sinless, compassionate, full of mercy and grace it is Jesus we go to for comfort he is the only High Priest.
- Consider; is there any priest on this earth that would lay his life down for you (I think not) yet Jesus did and did so from a willing heart
- Consider; Christ our High Priest died for us while we were still sinners how much more, will he favour us now we are devoted to him.
- Consider; Jesus is returning to exalt to eternal glory all who have made him their High Priest.

These are some of the reasons the author in the above verse is saying stop, pause and consider the compassion mercy and grace Jesus the perfect High Priest loves his brothers and sisters with and the eternal glory they will inherit.

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### HEBREWS 3:2-4

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#### **The Builder of a House has More Honour than the House Itself.**

- **Hebrews 3:2-4:** who was faithful to him who appointed him just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. <sup>3</sup>For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honour than the house itself. <sup>4</sup>(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)

The Jews esteemed Moses above all prophets because Moses led Israel out of Egypt by awesome wonders, God gave Moses the law and Moses spoke with God, thus the reason the author of Hebrews is saying Christ's glory far exceeds that of Moses glory. The words, "Moses also was faithful in all God's house" (v2) is the same as saying Moses was faithful over all Israel, over all God's Kingdom and over all God's church since these titles all refer to God's people as a collective whole. Not one of these titles refers to buildings or anything of this world, but to people who are devoted to God and the Lord Jesus Christ. God's Kingdom, God's church and God's House is people not buildings. Buildings only serve a practical purpose for the church to gather in, but it must always be remembered that it is the people in the buildings that are the church and not the building.

The word house is a beautiful expression to use of God's people and God's church since it immediately conjures in the mind the idea of a family i.e., children and parents. In God's spiritual house (built on faith) God is the parent and of course we are the children, but the word house goes far beyond simply symbolising children and parents since it also embraces the idea of parents, children, brothers and sisters deeply connected by love despite the fact they do not always agree with each other or even act in ways that the parent might think is below their best, but despite the differences, the disciplines, the joys and sorrows the bond of love holds the family together. Likewise, in the house of God love is the cement that holds the family members together i.e., love for their heavenly Father and love for their elder and perfect brother the Lord Jesus Christ unites them in a kinship spirit.

**The builder of all things is God:** during the era the writer of Hebrews lived in there were two spiritual houses the houses of the Jews and the house of the Gentiles this is what the words, "Every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God" is referring to, Moses built the houses of the Jews and Christ built the houses of the Gentiles, but God is the builder of both houses. The author with these words is saying to the Jews and the Gentiles that the houses of the Jews and the houses of the Gentiles both have God as the Master Architect therefore both should embrace each other in kinship and love since both have the same Master Builder.

**Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses:** Jesus glory surpasses that of Moses (v3) because:

- Jesus is the eternal Saviour; Moses was a mortal saviour (howbeit a great one).
- Jesus is the Son of God; Moses was called of God.
- Jesus has been exalted above every authority principality and power of all nations for all eternity; Moses was exalted as the deliver and prophet of Israel only.
- Jesus is resurrected to the right-hand side of God; Moses is yet waiting for the resurrection of all the House of God.
- Jesus came with grace and freedom; Moses came with the law and bondage.

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### HEBREWS 3:5-6

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**Moses was Faithful as a Servant, but Christ is Faithful as a Son.**

- **Hebrews 3:5-6:** Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, <sup>6</sup>but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

There is no better compliment any brother or sister in Christ could wish for than the one Moses is given (i.e., "Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant."). This is the testimony we should long to hear Jesus, our brothers and sisters in Christ and those outside of the house of God say of us, since there is no other better testimony that we could have than this one that is given to Moses. Though Moses testimony was the highest any brother or sister in Christ could wish to hear, Christ's testimony of course was much higher since his testimony is that he was the beloved Son Of God and faithful over all God's house meaning over the Jews and Gentiles in contrast to Moses who was faithful only over the house Israel.

**We are his house if we hold fast our confidence in our hope:** the words, "We are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope (v6) clearly show if we don't hold fast to our faith we can fall away from Christ and from the promised inheritance of eternal life.

**NOTE:** When salvation to eternal life is spoken of as the hope of the faithful in Christ, it is not called hope because it might or might not happen, but because it is unseen and yet future. The hope itself is guaranteed because it is based on God's promise and he cannot lie. The apostle Paul wrote:

- In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began (Titus 1:2).

Some who have faith in Christ believe it is impossible for anyone to fall away from the Lord once they have been saved. They support this theory on the following words of the apostle Paul:

- I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39).

But Paul is not teaching in these verses that it is impossible to fall away from the love of God in Christ, but that no-one else has the power to rob a brother or sister in Christ from the love of God. The only person who holds that power is ourselves and not others and the only way in which we can do that is to enter into unbelief (as the wilderness generation did) and deny Christ. If it was impossible for Christians to fall away from the faith there would be no need for the many warnings throughout the New Testament to be on guard against false teachers who would lead those in Christ away from God’s grace and their faith in Christ. For further information see the title:

- Born Again does not Guarantee Salvation.
- In Salvation (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## HEBREWS 3:7-12

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**Today, if you Hear his Voice, do not Harden your Hearts.**

- **Hebrews 3:7-12:** Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, <sup>8</sup>do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, <sup>9</sup>where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works <sup>10</sup>for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' <sup>11</sup>As I swore in my wrath, "*They shall not enter my rest.*" <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.

The words, "They shall not enter my rest" refer to the generation God delivered from Egypt and their refusal to cross the River Jordan and enter the "Promised Land" (God’s Rest).

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**THE STORY:** the LORD told Moses to send men to spy out the Promised Land so Moses sent one man from each of the twelve tribes, after forty-days they returned and said to all of Israel that the land flowed with milk and honey, but the cities are fortified and the men look like giants. Joshua and Caleb told the people not fear or rebel against the LORD, but go up and take the Land because the LORD is with them. The other ten spies told the people that the cities are fortified and all the men look like giants and they seemed like grasshoppers. Then the people wanted to Stone Moses, Aaron, Caleb and Joshua, but the glory of the LORD appeared to Moses and said:

- How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers (Num. 14:21-23).

The only two God said would enter the land from that generation were Caleb and Joshua because they had a different spirit (the complete story is found in Numbers chapter 13 and 14).

**Today, "If you hear His voice do not harden your heart,"** though the word, today carries the idea of present tense, in this context it refers to everyday or anytime of any generation a person hears the word of God which means the words:

- The Holy Spirit says, today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion (v7-8).

Applies to all people of all ages who believe in Christ, thus the reason the author says:

- Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God (v12).

### **Israel had seen:**

- The great miracles God had done to bring them out of Egypt.
- The Red Sea part and their enemies destroyed.
- They were led by a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day when they had to move camp.

Yet Israel was afraid to enter into the Promised Land (where they would have had rest) because of unbelief. They did not trust God's promise that He would go before them. If Israel had obeyed and trusted God and did what He had commanded God would have gone before them and conquered the seven grossly wicked nations and they would have lived in peace i.e. rest in the land they were promised. The Angel of the LORD did go before the next generation when they crossed the Jordan River and entered the Promised Land and they did have a time of peace and rest under Solomon until they eventually became corrupted by luxury, extravagance, indulgence and ease.

**The lesson for us today:** the author of Hebrews is using the rebellion and unbelief of Old Testament Israel and God's rejection of them to warn those in Christ not to neglect such a great salvation lest they also fall away in unbelief. Unbelief is the only thing that can cause those in Christ to fall away from their security of salvation in Christ. This is the danger of sin it entices brothers and sisters through selfishness, ego, pride, lust, greed, etc., away from their belief in God and their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ so they can indulge in a worldly lifestyle of sin. This is why sin in certain Scriptures is personified as a devouring lion waiting to pounce on its next victim or as a devil who seduces its victims by enticing temptations. The devouring lion and the devil's ultimate agenda is not just to entice people sin, but to stop people seeking after God and turn brothers and sisters away from their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and thereby rob them of eternal life. The roaring lion and the devil's agenda is not just to ruin people's lives in this world, but to keep them from finding God and thereby rob them of life in the next world.

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- Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

The reward in focus here is eternal life and everlasting glory.

**They always go astray in their heart:** the words, "they always go astray in their heart" (v10) show that it is the heart God looks upon, some people like David with Bathsheba may fall into sin and though utterly wrong and he reaped great sorrow because of it, it did not mean his heart was turned from God as was the heart of the children of Israel at in the wilderness. David's heart in contrast was totally broken when the prophet Nathan face him with the sin he had committed before God. This is because his sin was one of lust and weakness of the flesh, in contrast to being one of a hardened heart of disbelief and rebelling toward God. This is one of the reasons why we cannot judge the heart of a brother or sister in Christ when their life has taken a wrong turn since we don't know what state their heart is in before the Lord. It is also why Christ is the perfect High Priest he does see the heart and knows the motivations and being compassionate and merciful will judge accordingly.

**They shall not enter my rest:** the rest here was entering into the Promised Land the only two men to enter into the Promised Land from the generation that came out of Egypt were Joshua and Caleb because they believed God. Israel remained in the wilderness until that rebellious and unbelieving generation had died and then the new generation (their children) led by Joshua crossed the River Jordan and ate of the fruit of the Promised Land. While the people did what was right before God they



were blessed and God fought with them against their enemies and they had rest, but when they turned in unbelief and did what was right in their own eyes and rebelled against God the LORD withdrew his hand of favour and of blessing.

**The lesson for us today:** the rest the author of Hebrews has in focus for us today is the rest from works it is the rest from the struggle of self-effort and keeping religious rites, customs and traditions to earn righteousness that leads to eternal life. All who are in Christ are set free from this never-ending struggle since their salvation is solely dependent on faith in Christ and God's grace and not on their own self-effort in labouring and grappling to attain to the perfection the law demands, which means that today the following words:

- Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God (v12).

Not only applies to turning away from Christ to live a lifestyle of sin, but also embraces something far more subtle, dangerous and much more common for brothers and sisters in Christ to fall to which is turning away from God's grace that is in Christ and being enticed back under the law to earn righteousness that leads to eternal life. This was one of Paul's greatest struggles with the churches he had established, religious Jews of high standing and gifted with the art of oratory and speech making who accepted that Jesus was the Messiah the Christ, but did not accept the message of grace were enticing Christians (especially new converts) back under the law to be saved and thereby robbing them of God's salvation in Christ.

The following words of Paul show the enormous importance of trusting in God's grace in Christ. Paul in his letters wrote:

- I do not nullify the *GRACE* of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort, they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value. Equally as horrific as this Paul states:

- When we forsake *GRACE* we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by *GRACE* that God made us alive in Christ (Gal. 5:4) (Eph. 2:5).

Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that:

- It is only by *GRACE* that any brother or sister has been saved (Eph. 2:8).

Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God. This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life, which means in regards to eternal salvation, Christ, God, Grace and Faith, are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be saved to eternal life without any one of them. This is the reason the author in the book of Hebrews spends so many chapters brilliantly and skilfully explaining to the Hebrews that they must stop their sin of trusting in religious works, the Levitical Law and their priesthood to be counted righteous before God and start trusting in the grace of God that is in Christ and in his righteousness to be saved to eternal life.

By extension this means that Christians must stop trusting in attending a church building every week, strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to be saved. Though the practise of some of these maybe good in themselves they become grossly sinful when believers trust in them for their salvation since not one of them has any power to save to eternal life.

**God's great salvation:** the following words of the apostle Paul, "For if a law had been given that could give life (eternal), then righteousness would indeed be by the law" (Gal 3:21) should give every brother and sister in Christ tremendous comfort and set them free from any form of mental torment or self-condemnation since these words clearly show that not only Paul, but God Himself knows that not one of us will ever attain to the perfect standard of the law no matter how much we might desire to or how hard we try. Both God and Christ know that any attempt we make to attain to God's perfect standard of holiness to make us worthy of eternal life by our own human self-effort is doomed to fail before we even start, thus the glory, the beauty, the wonder and splendour of God's grace in Christ.

**NOTE:** the ultimate rest will be when the Lord Jesus Christ returns and all who belong to his family are gathered together in eternal glory and everlasting joy to be with the Lord forever.

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### HEBREWS 3:13-19

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#### **Exhort One Another as Long as it is Called TODAY.**

- **Hebrews 3:13-19:** 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 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.

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The people of Israel who rebelled:

- Had heard the word of God.
- Saw amazing wonders and miracles that no other generation since has.
- Were delivered from slavery by Moses a type of Christ.
- Were baptised by the Red Sea.

Yet they provoked God forty years. The author of Hebrews is shining a floodlight on the fact that it was those who God had delivered and saved from the bondage of Egypt that He turned against (because of their unbelief).

**The lesson today:** the author is warning every brother and sister in Christ (Jews and Gentiles) that if God was able to turn against those he saved by such majestic and awesome wonders in the Old Testament because of their unbelief, He will also do the same to those who turn away from grace and their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The writer is highlighting the truth that unbelief was what caused the wilderness generation to fall away from God and warning those in Christ to be careful the same thing does not happen to them. This is the reason, he says, "Exhort one another every day, as long as it is called, today" (v14) the word today in this context embraces the age we live in until that glorious day in which Christ returns and then a new day will begin.

The author of Hebrews is fully aware of the dangers and temptations each brother and sister in Christ faces while in this day and therefore encourages us all to exhort one another meaning; inspire, reassure, support, assist, help, nurture and give confidence to each other until Christ returns in contrast to backbiting, gossiping and causing contentions strife and divisions.

(re-notes following v1)

It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew).

**Jews and Gentiles become One New Nation in Christ:** The apostle Paul said:

- **Ephesians 2:11-22:** Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—<sup>12</sup>remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). <sup>17</sup>And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). <sup>18</sup>For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone <sup>21</sup>in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit.

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Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles).

In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

### **The practical application of what this means to you:**

If you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to you. The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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