**Series**: The Book of Hebrews

**Hebrews 3:1-19**

**Title**: A warning: "the House in the Wilderness"

**Description**: Everything that happened to Israel is an instruction to us, because we are still "a House in the Wilderness".

# Intro

* Goal: Christ IS faithful... yet faithfulness only a benefit to those who are faithful to Him
* The 'warnings of Hebrews',
* therefore **13:22** " I appeal to you, brothers,1 bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly" - Parakaleo: both Encouragement and Urgency

# Read 3:1-19 (part 1, continues to 4:14, and we will read 12-13 later)

[part 2 regards Entering the "Rest"]

# Understanding the references in Heb3

* (1Cor 10 - written for our instruction)

## God's House

* 2) 'God's House"
  + Title used for Kingdoms - generations within - 'house of Israel, house of Judah, house of David'; and pagan nations too
  + But especially the family of God - the Nation with which He has entered into covenant, so that they become His own "children"/ "sheep". And sometimes the epicentre of the relationship between them and Him - the Tabernacle of His Presence, or later the Temple : the house of God (located) in the house of God (his own)
  + Psalm 23:6, *" Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever*"
  + Psalm 27:4, " *One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple*"
* Moses was in the House (3:2): "*[Jesus] was faithful... just as Moses...in all God's House"*
  + Quote from **Num 12:7, Read with me**

If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. 7 Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD (Num 12:6-8)

* + **cf Exodus 14:31**, quote

31 Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. (Exo 14:31-1)

* Now why is this Important for Hebrews 3? Because Hebrews 3 challenges what "IN the house of God" really means

## Israelites in the Wilderness - To refresh our memory

* Exodus 1-11 - untold suffering in slavery by a wicked Pharoah who despised Israel, and God's 10 judgements until no option but to let them go free, and loaded with treasure. Final scene, parted the waters, crossing on dry land, and destruction of Pharoahs army who had given chase again. But no sooner are they saved, than they distrust Moses, and refuse to embrace God's promises
* Heb 3:7, quoting **Psalm 95, let's read there**, v7-8.
  + (God's 'house', testing at 'Meribah'... in the LXX not mentioned. 1st complaint Food (God showed his power), not long after 2nd complaint Water (God showed his power) - but they didn't believe, and were actually asking: **(Read) Ex 17:**2-7, esp 7)

2 Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" 3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" (Exo 17:2-7)

Let us return to Hebrews 3

# Jesus : the Faithful Builder

* **Read 3:1-6a,**
* **>> Moses & all the covenant at Sinai, the Commandments, even Israel... is not the glory of God's House**
* Now there is some glory - ch2, "we don't see it", yet ch3 reminds: in Israel , the glory of 'God's House' was in some way visible... ('the glory of Moses', 3 [presence, shining face])
* But Jesus 'as much more glory than Moses - to the point we can say by comparison Moses' glory was zero
  + ch1 - angels - Messengers of the Word of God: Jesus superior
  + ch2 - Moses - figure-head of God's chosen people Israel: but Jesus much more glory
    - ILLUS: when marvelling at a glorious construction, do we praise the servants in it, the stones, or the Architect, Builder and Decorator? Because v3 is saying Jesus is the 'builder' - not just brick-layer, but designer and decorator (cf Cistene Chapel, cathedrals etc)
    - In fact, Elevates Jesus' glory to be God's glory! (which, **see, v3-4)**
* therefore, v5. "Moses was faithful - right to honour him, none like him (Deut 34:10, face to face)... but what was he faithful in doing? (**5b**) *= to testify to the things that would be spoken later*! cf Heb 1:2 = to testify to the New Word, Message of God's Son
  + - **Contrast v5/v6** - Moses in the house; **v6** - Christ over the house.
* The GLORY of God's House is NOT ISRAEL - but Jesus Christ

**APP**

* Who then IS in The House, the "Brothers" and sisters? The Group of Jews in Israel? The Group of Christians in SA? The Group of Muslims in Iran? It's NOT the Group you're in, but the Grasp you hold - **Read 6b**
* 6) "hope" = 'so great a salvation' - restored into covenant with God, by blood of Jesus, ultimately sharing in Heaven.

And this leads us to the main point of ch3 - running all the way to 4:13: Warning.

# Jesus: Faithful Saviour to Faithful Hearers - an unapologetic warning

* Read 7-14
* In 15-19, 3 Rhetorical questions to apply 1440BC to 1st cent. AD
  + (and 1 Cor 10:11-12, says that we ourselves must read the account of Moses our instruction, today!

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. 12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. (1Co 10:11-12)

* **3 questions...**
  + 16: beneficiaries under Moses [how do we relate this to ourselves?
  + 17: corpses, except 2 faithful; even Moses didn't enter
  + 18: though beneficiaries God swears an oath against inheritance
* Now clearly, 2 alternatives; Either "GRASP onto Jesus" or **16**)"REBEL" (stiff neck), **17**)"SIN", **18**)DETERMINED REJECTION AGAINST PERSUASION
  + APP - as it happened then, can happen today; Christ proclaimed, and us not surrender in our hearts// this written to people in the group of Christians in the Middle East.
* **see v12**, "Take Care". = command to "see". It is possible to not see it, without looking for it. What should we see? **See v19**, *So we see that...*
* **Jesus: Faithful for the Faithful**. (PS - 2 Ti 2:13, " if we are faithless, he remains faithful-- for he cannot deny himself." - often used as comfort for when we are unfaithful, but context of 11-12 both encourages and threatens ,

The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful-- for he cannot deny himself (2Ti 2:11-13)

* The builder of the house will not deny the nature / character of the House - How can someone who doesn't trust God be at peace with Him?

We need to leave the study there till next week. 4:1-14 answers the question, "If you see this in my heart, What chance is thereto still enter God's House? - or has God taken an oath against me?"

# Application Summary

This urgent appeal is capped with a very famous text in 4:12-13. Read.

* without studying it in depth, it's sufficient to see the point: God's Word... extracts our word - voluntarily or not (judging the thoughts and intentions of the heart, ... him to whom we must give 'a word') - to neglect is to reject

(Call people for Communion)

3 imperatives

* Consider Him (1)
  + = notice, perceive, attentive scrutiny, study, examine, consider, reflect on, discern, give careful attention, think about carefully, understand ... TO LOOK SO AS TO UNDERSTAND - Why? Because He is Faithful over God's House as a Son
    - communion table - that opportunity again
* See in yourself (12)
  + A brother or sister is not so by the GROUP you're in, but by the GRASP you hold - Are you withdrawing from Christ?
    - communion table - let each person discern themselves (1Cor11)
* Exhort one another - which we're doing right now (13)
  + a chain - unbelieving (12) - withdraw from God (12) - silence from absence among one another (13) - deceitfulness of sin (13) - hardened (13)/ The imperative: "Exhort" - Para-kaleo, Comfort and Urgently call. And that is why we share communion now: An urgent warning, and a comforting calling