

# Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

## Hebrews 3:1-19

### Lesson 4

Next to Abraham, Moses was undoubtedly the man most greatly revered by the Jewish people. To go back to the Law meant to go back to Moses. The recipients of this letter to the Hebrews were greatly tempted to do just that. It was important that the Hebrew Christians understand that Jesus Christ is greater than Moses, because the entire system of Jewish religion came through Moses. In Hebrews 3 we will discover that Christ is better as a Person, He has a better ministry, and He provides a better rest. Again, Jesus is better!

#### DAY ONE: Read Hebrews 3

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. Hebrews 3 has been divided into three sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

**Verses 1-6**

**Verses 7-15**

**Verses 16-19**

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each segment division, record a title for Chapter 3.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lessons: *God/Father, Jesus/Son, and Holy Spirit*

New to this lesson: *Moses and faithful*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Hebrews 3. Remember, as you mark these words, to mark any personal pronouns (or other names such as *Christ for Jesus*) that refer to *The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*. Note that verses 7-11 and 15 are quotes from the Old Testament. Each reference in these verses should be marked with your symbol for *God*.

3. Using the chart titled *Jesus* list five things Hebrews 3 reveals about Him. (Challenge: list more.) You do not need to list everything. This is your list. Therefore, list what is important to you. You will be using this chart throughout our study of Hebrews to record attributes, characteristics, and things Jesus has and will accomplish.
4. Note the terms of conclusion in verses 1, 7, 10. Mark each of them. Choose one and record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

### DAY TWO: Read Hebrews 3:1-6a

1. The *therefore* of Hebrews 3:1 refers to what has already been written in this letter. With what two endearing words does the author address his readers?
  - a. *Holy* indicates their position in Christ. *Brethren* signifies their relationship. How does this encourage you to view other believers?
  - b. The word *holy* means *set apart for God* and the phrase *partakers of the heavenly calling* means *partners* or *sharers* in the heavenly glory to come. What does Hebrews 3:1b exhort those who share in the *heavenly calling* to do?
2. What two titles is Jesus given?
  - a. This is the only place in the Bible where Jesus is called an *Apostle* (one who is sent, an ambassador, a messenger). As *Apostle*, Jesus represents the One Who sent Him. What does Jesus say about this in John 4:34?
  - b. The *High Priesthood* of Christ is a theme that is interwoven throughout Hebrews. As *High Priest*, Jesus represents man to God. Recall what you learned about Jesus, our *High Priest*, from Hebrews 2:17.

3. In previous chapters Christ has been proven to be superior to angels. In this chapter He is proven to be superior to Moses. In times past God appointed Moses as His messenger to the people of Israel and He appointed Aaron as high priest. Jesus is declared to be both *Apostle* (messenger) and *High Priest*. Use the following chart to compare Christ Jesus and Moses by recording what is said about them in the following verses:

| <b>Christ Jesus</b>                          | <b>Moses</b>   |
|--|--|
| Verse 2                                      | Verse 2 ( <i>house</i> refers to the nation of Israel) |
| Verse 3,4                                    | Verse 3  |
| Verse 6 ( <i>house</i> refers to the church) | Verse 5  |

4. Using Hebrews 3:1-6, write a summary statement proving Jesus' superiority to Moses.
- a. This was crucial for the Jewish believers at the time. Why do you think this is important for believers to know today?
5. What is the proper attitude that we should have toward our spiritual leaders today?  
Challenge: Support your answer with Scripture.

### **DAY THREE: Read Hebrews 3:6**

1. *But Christ is faithful as a Son over God's house.* (Hebrews 3:6a NIV) According to the next phrase, who is this *house*?
- a. Meditate on the phrase *whose house we are*. The word *house* indicates dwelling place. How do the following verses confirm this truth?
- 1 Corinthians 6:19
- 1 Peter 2:5a
- b. Consider again the phrase *whose house we are*. What difference does the recognition of Jesus indwelling you make in your life?

2. Write the conditional phrase of Hebrews 3:6 (beginning with the word *if*).
  - a. The word *if* indicates we have a choice. One expositor has said of this word *if*, "this note of contingency runs all through the epistle. We are God's house *if* we do not play the traitor and desert". Note the admonition to *hold fast* in this verse. To what are we to *hold fast*?
    - 1.) What relationship do you see between Hebrews 3:6b and Hebrews 2:1?
    - 2.) What do the following verses say about *hold fast*?
      - 1 Corinthians 15:2
      - 1 Thessalonians 5:21
      - Hebrews 10:23
3. The word *faithful* is used three times in this first section of Hebrews 3:1-6. Moses was *faithful* as a servant, Christ was *faithful* as the Son, and believers need to be *faithful* by *holding fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end*. What keeps you faithful? Be specific.

#### DAY FOUR: Read Hebrews 3:7-12

1. The *therefore* that begins Hebrews 3:7 refers to the exhortation of Hebrews 3:6 to *hold fast*. This verse begins the section which contains the second warning from Hebrews: the danger of unbelief. We will discover the serious consequences of faithlessness through the example of the children of Israel. You will notice that verses 7-11 in this passage are parenthetical and are a quotation from Psalm 95:7-11. How does the phrase, *as the Holy Spirit says*, compel you to give heed to what follows?
  - a. What does the *Holy Spirit* say we are to do *Today*? verses 7b,8a
  - b. How do you decide whether or not you will take a particular warning seriously?
2. The Hebrew nation's own history is used through Psalm 95 to graphically illustrate this strong warning. List what you learn about their *fathers* (the Israelites) from Hebrews 3:8-10.
  - a. Look at these verses again. What do they reveal about God?
  - b. Consider the serious consequences that resulted from that generation's disobedience as you write verse 11 here.

3. The subject of *rest* will be developed further in Chapter 4. The word *rest* in verse 11 refers to the entering in to the place of the Promised Land. God had promised them a place of *rest*, but they failed to enter into it. The reason they did not enter into His *rest* is found in Hebrews 3:12. It is written in the form of a strong warning to the present generation of believers. Ponder it thoughtfully as you write verse 12 phrase by phrase.
  - a. Think about the phrase *an evil heart of unbelief*. Doubt is associated with *unbelief* yet believers often excuse this as something minor. Look again at the possible result of *unbelief* from this verse. *Unbelief* can lead to *departing from the living God*. How do you think this can happen?

#### DAY FIVE: Read Hebrews 3:13-19

1. After the strong warning against *unbelief* in Hebrews 3:12, believers are given an admonition in verse 13a. Print it here in all caps.
  - a. Define the word *exhort*.
  - b. Share ways to do this.
    - 1.) What attitudes are essential as you *exhort one another daily*?
2. View again the phrase in Hebrews 13b, *lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin*. In what way is sin deceitful?
3. You will recall from Hebrews 3:1, believers are *partakers of the heavenly calling*. Now what does Hebrews 3:14a reveal about believers?
  - a. According to Hebrews 3:14b what is the evidence that we are *partakers of Christ*?
  - b. Why do you think people follow Christ for a little while and then turn away from Him?
4. In Hebrews 3:15-19 the author retells the story of the Israelites and shows us the consequences of their *unbelief*. List them here.

Challenge: Answer the questions found in Hebrews 3:16-18.

5. Notice the phrase *because of unbelief* in Hebrews 3:19. *Unbelief* robs us of all the rich blessings God wants to give us. Faith is the opposite of *unbelief*. What help does Romans 10:17 offer?

### DAY SIX: Review Hebrews 3

1. How has *considering Jesus* in this chapter given you more understanding and greater appreciation of Him and what He has done for you?
  - a. In what way have you been shown through Hebrews 3:1-6a that Jesus is superior to Moses?
2. Recall a warning for the Christian from the example given of the Israelites in this passage.
3. How does a person's heart become *hard*?
4. Describe the *rest* that Jesus gives.
5. Choose an exhortation from this chapter that stands out to you today. Tell Why.
6. Share an insight you gained through this study.

*Again I say, we are telling you about  
what we ourselves have actually seen and heard,  
so that you may share the fellowship and the joys we have  
with the Father and with Jesus Christ his son.*

- 1 John 1:3 TLB