

September 15, 2019

Hebrews 3:1-19

Believe or Grieve?

Imagine for a moment you are driving along a country road approaching a deep gorge. Nearing the gorge you realize the bridge has been destroyed, and the cars ahead are plunging over the edge to certain death. Would you follow those cars, or would you turn around and go another way?

You would quickly pull off the road, so as not to make the same mistake as those ahead. Not only that, you would probably try to flag down other cars, to keep their occupants from death.

Wise people learn from the mistakes of others. In this lesson you will learn the sad story of some people who grieved the Lord with their unbelief. They forfeited great blessings by not believing God. We face the same choice – to **believe** God or to **grieve** Him.

Heb. 3:1 The Bible addresses us as _____ brethren and _____ of the heavenly _____. The word **consider** means to fix one's mind upon something. Who should we fix our minds upon?

Heb. 3:2 To whom is Christ compared?

Heb. 3:3-4 Who is superior – Moses or Christ?

What makes Him superior?

Heb. 3:5-6 Moses was faithful “as a _____,” but Christ was faithful “as a _____ over His own _____.”

Moses was the greatest leader, prophet, and teacher the Jews ever had, but these verses tell us **Jesus Christ is superior to Moses**.

Verses 7-11 are quoted directly from **Psalm 95:7-11**. They remind us that the children of Israel stubbornly rebelled against Moses as he led them through the wilderness.

Heb. 3:7 Who spoke these words?

Heb. 3:8 What are we warned not to do?

The Israelites put the Lord to the test and provoked His wrath when they demanded water and attacked Moses (**Ex. 17:1-7**). Another incident was when they listened to negative reports and refused to enter the Promised Land (**Num. 14**).

Heb. 3:9 The Israelites continued their rebellious ways. How long did they witness God's mighty works?

Heb. 3:10 How did God feel about that generation?

Heb. 3:11 What did He swear in His wrath (**Num. 14:22-23**)?

The ancient Israelites refused to believe and obey God, so the adults died in the wilderness without entering the Promised Land. After describing those mistakes and their consequences, the writer turns his attention to us.

Heb. 3:12 “Take _____, brethren, lest there be in any of you an _____ heart of _____, in departing from the living _____.”

The rebellious Israelites were still God’s people, but they lost the blessings they would have received **IF** they had believed God. The same can happen to us if we carelessly doubt and disobey God.

Heb. 3:13 When should we exhort one another to believe God?

Heb. 3:14 The ancient Israelites were to follow Moses as he followed God, but “we are made _____ of Christ.”

Heb. 3:15 What are we warned not to do?

Heb. 3:16 Did all the Israelites rebel?

Heb. 3:17 Which Israelites grieved the Lord?

What happened to them (**Num. 14:32**)?

Heb. 3:18 Why couldn’t they enter God’s rest?

Heb. 3:19 “They could _____ enter in because of _____.”

Concluding Thoughts: The ancient Israelites faced a choice. They could believe God and obediently follow the leader God set over them, or they could listen to the murmuring voices of unbelief, resulting in disobedience and rebellion. Sadly, they chose the latter course. They hardened their hearts and forfeited the blessings God had for them in the Promised Land.

We face the same choice today. We can believe and obey God (resulting in blessings), or we can murmur, complain, and rebel (causing us to lose God’s blessings). We can mindlessly follow others to destruction, like cars plunging off a destroyed bridge, or we can believe God and enjoy the blessings He has promised us. We have a choice to either **believe** God, or to **grieve** Him.

That is an important choice, but it is also an **urgent** choice. The word “**TODAY**” appears three times in the verses you studied today (v. 7, 13, and 15). We cannot delay; we must decide now.

Look for areas of unbelief and disobedience in your life, and confess them as sins. Commit yourself anew to believing God and to faithfully obeying Him. Do it right now.

Project: Memorize **Hebrews 3:12**. When you detect any unbelief or rebellion in your life, confess it and turn from it right away. Look for opportunities to warn others that the bridge is out on the road of unbelief. Don’t forget to do the **Daily Bible Readings** each day.