

Lessons From Hebrews

Identify Not With Ancient Israel

(He 3:16-4:1)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From Hebrews."
 - a. Things to keep in mind.
 - i. The audience: Jewish Christians that have been severely persecuted and are considering going back to Judaism.
 - ii. The overall theme: Christ is Superior to all.
 - b. We have looked at already...
 - i. Christ is greater than the angels.
 1. **He 1-2**
 - ii. Christ is greater than Moses.
 1. **He 3:1-6**
 - c. Today we look at how...
 - i. Christians should "Identify Not With Ancient Israel."
 1. **He 3:7-4:16**
3. The Hebrew writer here in this section is...
 - a. Preparing the readers for his next thought on how Christ is greater than the Levitical priesthood.
 - i. In doing so he reminds them what ancient Israel did or didn't do as a reminder or lesson to learn from.
 1. **Ro 15:4** "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."¹

I. Ancient Israel Fell Short Of The Promised Land

- A. Ancient Israel did not enter because...(3:7-11)
 1. They hardened their hearts being rebellious.
 - i. **Ex 32:4** "And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!""
 2. They put God to the test.
 - i. **Ex 17:2** "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. They were easily led astray.
 - i. **Rv 2:14** "But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality [fornication]." (brackets mine)

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Lessons From Hebrews

- B. Ancient Israel did not enter because...(3:16-19)
1. They were a people of constant sin.
 - i. They grumbled and complained about...
 - a. Water
 - b. Food
 - c. Moses
 - d. Canaanites
 - e. God
 2. They were an unbelieving people.
 - i. They had no faith in God though they had seen so much.
 - a. They had seen...
 1. The fog protect them from Egypt.
 2. The Red Sea part and walked across it.
 3. The water spout forth from the rocks.
 4. The manna come from above.
 5. The rebellious fall (Korah; Balaam)
 6. The cloud by day and pillar of fire by night for forty years.
 - ii. They had seen so much and yet they had no faith.
 - a. This is elaborated on in the next section.

C. Ancient Israel did not enter because...(4:2-8)

 1. They were not united in faith by the message they heard.
 - i. They did not mix their knowledge with trust in God.
 - a. **Nu 13:30-31** "But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." 31 Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are." 32 So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height."

II. Christian's Should Not Fall Short Of The Promised Land

- A. Christians should enter the promised land because...(3:12-15)
1. They should not have a hardened heart.
 - i. We are not to let sin sear our heart.
 - a. **I Ti 4:2** "speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron" (NKJV)
 - ii. We are to guard our hearts from sin.
 - a. **Ph 4:7** "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Lessons From Hebrews

- iii. We are to bolster up our hearts with good things.
 - a. **Ph 4:8** "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."
- B. Christians should enter the promised land because...(4:1)
 - 1. They fear the LORD God.
 - i. This means having an awe and reverence for God.
 - a. **He 12:28-29** "Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire."
 - b. This is more than simply respecting God.
 - 1. "Fearing God means having such a reverence for Him that it has a great impact on the way we live our lives."
(<http://goo.gl/kKcjJ>)
 - ii. This doesn't mean being scared of God.
 - a. We have God's promise that nothing will separate us from His love.
 - 1. **Ro 8:38-39** "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (NKJV)
 - b. We have God's promise that He will never leave us or forsake us.
 - 1. **He 13:5** "...I will never leave you nor forsake you."
 - iii. "The fear of God is respecting Him, obeying Him, submitting to His discipline, and worshipping Him in awe." (Ibid)
 - a. **Ec 12:13** "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all."
(NKJV)

CONCLUSION

- 1. Brethren there is still a promised Sabbath Rest for each of those that have been adopted into Christ.
 - a. **He 4:9-11** "So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. 11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience."
- 2. Question: Are you going to enter that Sabbath Rest?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby helping each one along.
 - b. If not why not?

Lessons From Hebrews

3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**