



## Hebrews Lesson 3 Chapter 3

*Already in Hebrews 1-2 the author has made a compelling argument regarding the superiority of Jesus to angels. He has also torn down the false belief that Christ wasn't human at all but simply a ghost by proving the necessity of His identification with the human beings He was dying for. Using the Old Testament, he succinctly sets the groundwork for his approach to these disillusioned Christians. He wants them to know that the truths they are struggling with are evident in their own Scriptures, and that the solution lies in persevering through the difficulty of the persecution they are facing. They have slipped in their commitment to Christ and the authority of His apostles. They are facing severe consequences for their faith, and they are growing weary. The author reminds them that the original recipients of God's*

*message grew weary in the wilderness, and he was encouraging these believers to not fall to the same deception of unbelief that their forefathers fell victim to. The covenant of life through the sacrifice of Jesus was worth fighting for. The new covenant features were abundantly superior to what the old covenant had given them. The author started his comparison with the Jewish idea of the elevation and significance of angels and will continue to convince his readers that Christ is superior in many ways. In chapter 3, he will take on one of the heroes of faith that all Jews elevate—Moses, the original priest and mediator of the Mosaic covenant. This was sacred ground for all Jews so it would be necessary for the author to make his argument for the supremacy of Christ over Moses clear and powerful.*

### REVIEW OF CHAPTER 2

*“For this \_\_\_\_\_ we must pay much closer \_\_\_\_\_ to what we have heard, lest we \_\_\_\_\_ from it.” Hebrews 2:1*

1. *Why do sin and suffering go hand in hand?*

2. *If Jesus had been just a ghost instead of genuine flesh and blood as Docetism taught, how would that have changed His sacrifice for mankind?*

### READ CHAPTER 3

3. *What two titles is Jesus identified with in vs. 1? What do they specify about the work of Jesus, and why are those important to the author's argument?*

4. *Why is Jesus more worthy of honor than Moses? Verses 2-6 How do you think those statements would have affected these struggling believers?*

5. *What words of warning are given in verse 6?*

6. *Read Psalm 95:6-11 (which is quoted in Hebrews 3:7-11), Deuteronomy 6:16, Exodus 17:1-7 and Numbers 20:1-13. What happened at Massah and Meribah that was being used as a severe warning?*



#### *Word Study:*

*The words Massah and Meribah in Hebrew mean testing and quarreling consecutively.*

*The term for "falling away" in the Greek is *aphestemi*. It means to make defection from; to revolt. It is used in Luke 8:14 in the parable of the soils. The seed that falls on rocky soil has no firm root so in a time of temptation they "fall away." It is a derivative of the word "apostasy" which is *apostasia* and means "staying away from; to separate; to divorce." It is used in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 of the "apostasy" that will take place before the man of lawlessness is revealed.*

*~Strong's Dictionary*



The departing spoken of through the two Greek words above mean to place oneself away from or to stand away from someone. It does not necessarily mean to remove oneself from someone or somewhere. This departing from someone does not necessarily imply wholehearted agreement or disagreement, but it is separating oneself for the purpose of not incurring the dangers of that association. ~Key Word Study Bible

7. *What does the writer say is the cause of falling away, and what does he give as a remedy for it? Vs. 12-13 From the definitions below, what might that look like in your life?*



The term “falling away” is the Greek word *aphistemi*. It means “to revolt” or “to move away; to leave; to separate oneself.” It is a synonym to the word “apostasy” (*apostasia*) found in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. It means “defection from the truth.” The word “encourage” (*parakaleo*) in verse 13 means “to call upon someone to do something; to exhort or admonish.”

8. *What is the point of the author’s rhetorical questions in verses 16-18?*

9. *What was the grievous sin they committed that caused all this? Vs. 19*

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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