

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Jan 2014

Hebrews

The Preeminence of Jesus Christ

Lesson #4: Moses and Unbelief

INTRODUCTION

The Israelites had many miraculous signs that showed God's power. Why did they balk at God's sufficiency as they were trying to decide to enter the Promise Land? Num 14:22-23

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Hebrews 3:1-6

*Note: The author is speaking directly to the Jewish Christians (holy brethren) with a longing for Judaism. Moses was revered as the most spiritually famous Jew. Ex 14:31 An apostle was God's special messenger and authoritative spokesman for the gospel. Jn 12:49 The high priest represents the people to God (mediates confession). The term "house" comes from the Greek *oikos* meaning household.*

1. How might Moses and Jesus both be considered apostles and high priests? Why is Jesus a "better" apostle and high priest than Moses?

Note: "partakers of a heavenly calling" (vs. 1) (1) Israel was called by God to be a kingdom of priests to bring the world back to God (Gen. 12:3; Exod. 19:5). In the OT this was a call to service, not individual salvation, and a corporate call (national Israel) to an assigned task (worldwide evangelization); (2) individual believers are called (John 6:44, 65) to an eternal salvation; and then (3) every individual Christian is called to serve the body of Christ through spiritual giftedness (1 Cor. 12:7, 11).¹

2. Some Gentile believers criticize the early Jewish Christians for their allegiance to Jewish thinking such as reverence to Moses. What traditions do modern Christians support which may be drawing us away from an intimate relationship with Jesus? Phil 3:10; 12

Read Hebrews 3:7-19

Note: John MacArthur feels that this passage is based on Psalm 95:7-11 which was familiar to the Jewish audience. Since the Psalmist is warning of Israel's disbelief, people in the church were not willing to make a commitment to follow (believe in) Christ.

3. Why would people be in the church if they were not true believers?
4. What are the pros and cons of using verse 14 to say that the greatest proof of salvation is continuation in the Christian life? (possession vs. profession) 1 Jn 2:19; Jn 8:31; 6:39; 2 Cor 13:5
5. What are other proofs of salvation? Mt 7:20; 21; Jn 15:7
6. How would you know who needs admonishment or encouragement in your circle of influence?

APPLICATION

Consider Jesus. How are you learning *from* Jesus (vs. *about* Jesus)? Matt 11:29

How are you living out (possessing) your beliefs?

¹ Utley, R. J. (1999). *Vol. Volume 10: The Superiority of the New Covenant: Hebrews*. Study Guide Commentary Series (34). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.