

OLD TESTAMENT BACKGROUND

Israel in the Wilderness

The Setting of Hebrews 3:16



God led Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. (Exodus 13:21–22)

The book of Hebrews looks back at the journey of Israel after they were delivered from Egypt by the mighty hand of God. Their story is recorded so we can learn and be warned.

1. DELIVERANCE FROM EGYPT

God sent Moses to lead His people out of bondage (Exodus 3:10). Through the ten plagues, the Red Sea, and His mighty arm, the Lord saved Israel from Pharaoh and brought them out with a high hand (Exodus 14:13–14).

It was a moment of faith, joy, and victory.

“Who brought them out with silver and gold: there was not one feeble person among their tribes.”

Psalm 105:37 (KJV)

2. THE WILDERNESS JOURNEY

After leaving Egypt, Israel traveled for forty years in the wilderness (Numbers 14:33–34). They moved from place to place as God directed by His cloud.

- God provided manna for their hunger.
- Water came from the rock.
- Quail satisfied their need.
- God was their protection and guide.

Yet, though they saw His miracles daily, they still struggled to trust Him.

3. THE PROMISED LAND

God promised to give Israel a good land—a land flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3:8, 17). But because of unbelief and disobedience, most of that generation never entered it.

“So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.” Hebrews 3:19 (KJV)

4. LESSONS FOR BELIEVERS

The wilderness experience teaches us important truths:



God is Faithful

He provided for Israel then, and He provides for us today.



Unbelief Has Consequences
Doubt and rebellion will keep us from God's best.



God's Rest Is Real

The promised rest is available to those who believe and obey.



We Must Keep Going

Faith must endure to the end to enter the promises of God.

Their story is not just history—it is instruction for us.

“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

1 Corinthians 10:11 (KJV)

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

“For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.”

Hebrews 3:16 (KJV)

KEY EVENTS TIMELINE



Egyptian Bondage

Israel lived in Egypt for about 430 years.



Call of Moses

God called Moses to deliver His people.



Red Sea Crossing

God parted the sea and delivered Israel.



Manna in the Wilderness

God provided daily bread from heaven.



Water from the Rock

God gave water in their time of need.



Law at Sinai

God gave His Law and entered a covenant with His people.



Refusal to Enter

Because of unbelief, they did not enter the Promised Land.



A Promise Remains

God's rest remains for those who believe today.

MEMORY VERSE

“So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”

Hebrews 3:19 (KJV)

“ These things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.” 1 Corinthians 10:6 (KJV)

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Serving Christ Jesus by Serving Others

Volume 1 • Issue 1 • July 1, 2026