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Hebrews 3

Jesus Our Apostle and High Priest

The first word coming up in vs 1 is “Wherefore”. It is like “therefore”, indicating that what is now to be presented builds on what was previously stated. God will continue to present the idea that Jesus is above all things in creation, no exceptions.

1Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

Again, the author (God) is addressing these comments to Jews (Hebrews) who had accepted Christ as their Messiah. The author is calling them “holy brethren”. We know that Holy in the Greek means to set apart. So, these “Hebrews” are set apart by their Faith in Christ just like all Believers are “set aside” or HOLY to God and BY GOD.

Set apart from who or what? Remember in God’s Kingdom view there are two kinds of people, Believers, and non-believers. These spoken of here are simply spoken to as if they were

Believers and by being Believers they are considered Holy, set Apart by God.

These Jews clearly get the idea put forth by the author unlike most gentiles/heathens who would not understand the full meaning of Apostle and High Priest. The author is speaking of Jesus as both an Apostle and the High Priest. The point being that Jesus served on earth at the direction of the Father in whom He was an apostle. Jesus in His human form learned from God just like His disciples learned from Him. He also will serve as High Priest and King in His Kingdom to come. Again, Christ is above all creation and created beings, even the highly regarded Moses.

Remember there is a reason that God had to have these Hebrews written to; they were having doubts and abandoning their position in Christ returning to their Jewish roots. That was and is catastrophic for any believer to do.

Hebrews 6:4-6

4For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

I believe this is what is referred to as Blaspheming the Holy Spirit of which there is no forgiveness. The other way to blaspheme the Holy Spirit is to reject Christ's gift of salvation through the calling and urging of the Holy Spirit.

May 7, 2023

For those who do not attend a local denomination we thought it might be good to share the Communion together with those that do attend a local denomination. Let's take a moment and privately confess our sins before the Lord so we do not take this communion unworthily.

The reason we need to examine our lives is contained in 1 Corinthians 11:27-32, so I am going to read this out of order so we can all understand why it is important to come to God with a clean heart and repent of our sin before taking the Lord's Supper.

1 Corinthians 11:27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. **28** But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup. **29** For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. **30** For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. **31** For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. **32** But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

Now the Lord's Supper or communion:

1 Corinthians 11: 23For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me. 26For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

One other thing on a report from Israel. They are about to celebrate something called Lag Baomer, a non-Biblically authorized celebration over a former Rabis tomb. Keep this in mind as we study Hebrews today. Jewish history believes that Moses tomb is unknown for exactly this reason, that the people would not seek to worship at his tomb, but Worship the Living God.

Picking up our study again:

2Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses *was faithful* in all his house. 3For this *man* was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. 4For every house is builded by some *man*; but he that built all things *is* God.

The “Who” that was faithful is Jesus the Messiah. He was Faithful to God the Father that appointed Jesus to live in human form and take on the sins of mankind.

The term “house” here is likely a reference to the House of Israel; the 12 tribes. It was through Moses OBEDIENCE to God that the 12 Tribes were rescued from Egypt a type and shadow of Sin. The second way to understand this “house” is the creation of the “Church”. It is Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit that has created the Big “C” Church on earth. It is made up only of Believers, there is no Jew or Gentile in the CHURCH big “C”.

Likewise, in a most dynamic manner mankind was saved from Sin by Jesus Christ by which HE CHRIST built the Church; Big C, this CHURCH big “C” has no brick or mortar, it is made up wholly of BELIEVERS.

5And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

Moses and his own personal house (family), meaning his sister Merriam and brother Aaron. They had their problems with OBEDICENE but in the end walked as they should. In that walking in obedience God was able to build the Jewish “house” that was exemplified by the Temple. By the Law it was their

earthly house of worship through the Priesthood of Aaron. It all pointed to the coming Messiah who would save mankind from their sins if they would repent and Believe in Christ. The symbolism of the Temple all pointed to what would become the CHURCH big “C” that the Messiah Himself would build through the Power of the Holy Spirit. If you have repented and asked Christ into your heart then you are a part of the the big “C” Church.

6 But Christ as a son over his own house; **whose house are we,** if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Now Jesus was sent to the Jews to bring them Salvation first. With their rejection from the Religious Jewish authority, that then opened the door to the gentiles, us. But this letter is again to the Christian Hebrews which were not called Christian Hebrews or Christian Jews but were called “brethren”, meaning brothers in Christ. We are eavesdropping into this conversation but in the end it was to all Believers. What we can take from this is the preeminence of Christ in all Creation, He is the Creator God. He is our Savior, Redeemer and Lord. This all comes with a caution based on God’s previous experience with His Chosen People in the Desert of Sinai.

Do Not Harden Your Hearts

7Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice,

8Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

This provocation of speaks of when the Israelites were in the desert without water and started to grumble against Moses and God. God tells Moses and his brother Aaron to assemble the tribes.

The grumbling by the Israel started as soon as they left Egypt. It culminated with even Moses doing something that God did not authorize which is covered in Number 20:8-13. But the provocation started in Number 14: this follows God sending spies into the Promised Land and their fear of what they saw there, except Caleb, and Joshua.

Numbers 14: The People Rebel

[\(Deuteronomy 1:26-33\)](#)

1And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. 2And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! 3And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? 4And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

5Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

6And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: 7And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. 8If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. 9Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not. 10But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

11And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? 12I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

Moses Intercedes for the People

13And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;) 14And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou LORD art among this people, that thou LORD art seen face to face, and that thy cloud standeth over them, and that thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night. 15Now if thou shalt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying, 16Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he sware unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness. 17And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying,

18The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation. 19Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

God's Forgiveness and Judgment

(Deuteronomy 1:34-40)

20And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word: 21But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD. 22Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; 23Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: 24But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it. 25(Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwelt in the valley.) To morrow turn you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.

26And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 27How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me. 28Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: 29Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, 30Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. 31But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey,

them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised. [32](#)But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness. [33](#)And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness. [34](#)After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise. [35](#)I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.

The Plague on the Ten Spies

[36](#)And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, [37](#)Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD. [38](#)But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still.

[39](#)And Moses told these sayings unto all the children of Israel: and the people mourned greatly.

Defeat by Amalekites and Canaanites

[40](#)And they rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the LORD hath promised: for we have sinned. [41](#)And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the LORD? but it shall not prosper. [42](#)Go not up, for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies. [43](#)For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you. [44](#)But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not

*out of the camp. **45**Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah.*

Now the thing that Moses did that displeased the Lord.

***Numbers 20:8**“Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron assemble the congregation and speak to the rock before their eyes, that it may yield its water. You shall thus bring forth water for them out of the rock and let the congregation and their beasts drink.”*

***9**So Moses took the rod from before the LORD, just as He had commanded him; **10**and Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them, “Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?” **11**Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank.*

***12**But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.” **13**Those were the waters of Meribah, because the sons of Israel contended with the LORD, and He proved Himself holy among them.*

This act by Moses and Aaron provoked God and God responded by keeping them from entering the Promised Land.

9When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

There were many provocations in the wilderness from a stiff-necked people that tried God’s patience. How are we as individual

Believers doing on that count? Are we stiff necked with certain sins in our lives? What are we provoking God with?

10Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in *their* heart; and they have not known my ways.

11So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

These verses were a parallel to Psalms 95

Psalms 95:1Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout to the Rock of our salvation! 2Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him in song. 3For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods. 4In His hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to Him. 5The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land. 6O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. 7For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the sheep under His care. Today, if you hear His voice, 8do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,a in the day at Massah in the wilderness,b 9where your fathers tested and tried Me, though they had seen My work. 10For forty years I was angry with that generation, and I said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray,c and they have not known My ways.” 11So I swore on oath in My anger, “They shall never enter My rest.”d

Again, blaspheming (not believing) God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit does not end well as it did for the generation that was brought out of Egypt. Belief in Christ in God does not stop at accepting, it is proven in our lives our walk with Christ in Obedience. As James said:

James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Works carried out in Faith is the proof of our belief to the world. God already knows our hearts and what we will do. We don't need to prove anything to Him. We need to prove our Faith to ourselves and those in this world.

The Dangers of Unbelief

12Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

The concern then as it is now that there are many who fellowship with Believers who are actually unbelievers in their hearts. That disbelief will lead to their departing from the Living God. Departing from the Living God is to die in one's sin and be cast into the Lake of Fire at the Great White Thorne Judgement.

Romans 1: 20For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their

own bodies between themselves: [25](#)Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

[26](#)For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: [27](#)And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

[28](#)And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; [29](#)Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, [30](#)Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, [31](#)Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: [32](#)Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Being a Christian is the hardest road you will ever walk carrying the lightest burden you will ever carry.

Matthew 11: [28](#)Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29](#)Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. [30](#)For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

[13](#)But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

This verse is the call for all Believers to fellowship daily. Now I know that life and work all incumber our ability to have face to face fellowship with other Believers but there are ways of having fellowship in a meaningful way. One way is studying the Bible on a daily basis and encouraging others you are around to do so as well.

Jesus used sheep as an example of Believers quite often. The fact is that a sheep by itself is easy pray for a wolf or predator. The believer that is by him or herself is easy pray for Satan and his demons.

14For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

A call to walk together in Christ, with Christ and for Christ, together in OBEDIENCE to His Word. Being “partakers of Christ”

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Christians must be willing to suffer with and for Christ. It is our obligation to the one who saved us. The reason is to make the Word of God alive and operating in our lives as Christians. As He Jesus suffered for us there should be no reason that we should not be willing to suffer for Him for the sake of His Word. Suffering for Jesus is not suffering due to stupid mistakes and decisions we

make in life and we reap the consequences of those dumb acts. Suffering for Christ is purely based on suffering for the sake of the Gospel of Christ, resisting all evil in any form; demon or man it matters not if it is done for Christ Jesus and is validated by His Word.

However, God also said that He did not appoint us to wrath!

1 Thessalonians 5 **9** ***For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ....***

15 While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

Again, originally written to the Hebrews (Jews who had at least mentally assented to Salvation through Christ). By the sounds of the pleadings from the author God, it appears that some had left the Good News and returned to the Law and Judaism.

16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. 17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was *it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

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