

## The Warning Passages in Hebrews

Hebrews 2:1-3, Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; 3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;... 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

God's Son, the Messiah, is better than the prophets and the angels, so it is more important to accept him than to accept the Law and the Old Testament. Rejection of the prophets resulted in the Babylon captivity, but rejection of the Son will result in the Diaspora. Rejection of Moses resulted in the earth swallowing people alive, but rejection of the Son results in eternal damnation. The "we" are those ministered to by the apostles, so believers or unbelievers? Will all believers receive the succoring to persevere?

Hebrews 3:6-11 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. Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. 10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. 11 So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.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 sware 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.

Hebrews 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

We are, present tense, his house; if we hold fast, future tense. We are, present tense, partakers of Christ; if we hold fast, future tense. It doesn't say we will remain partakers if we hold fast. The future doesn't determine the future, the future manifests the present reality. Perseverance manifests the truly regenerate. Most of Israel was unregenerate while they wandered in the wilderness, but more than Caleb, Joshua, and Moses were regenerate; so it must have been a type that Israel didn't enter into salvation. They saw the miracles and "walked with God" physically, but not spiritually. Spiritually, they grumbled and did not believe.

The difficulty is that he addresses "holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." The brethren and partakers could refer to Israel, and it speaks of "profession," not reality. But he says, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.<sup>13</sup> But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Does "brethren" mean Jewish brethren or Christians and professing Christians. It doesn't seem like exhortation would do any good for unbelievers nor would lack of exhortation prevent believers from persevering. Who should not to be bitter and hardened because of suffering and persecution?

Some may come short of the promise of salvation because of unbelief. "we which have believed do enter into rest," and have, "ceased from his own works." "The word of God is ... a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." So He will know if we have faith in our hearts or not.

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.<sup>15</sup> For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Again, exhortation to hold fast a "profession". this sounds

like believers need the grace available to endure suffering; but believers will endure even if they don't ask for grace.