

WEEK 3

HEBREWS

CHAPTERS 3 & 4



Town of Safed, Israel

JESUS IS THE GREATER LEADER

This week, we're focusing on Chapters 3-4. In these verses, the author reminds us that Jesus is an even greater leader than Moses. Moses was a faithful servant; he led God's people through the wilderness and oversaw the building of the tabernacle, but he was only a preview of the One to come. **Jesus is the true Architect of it all, the One worthy of all glory, honor, and praise!**

We also see a sobering reminder from Israel's history: when they hardened their hearts and rebelled against God in the wilderness, they lost the blessing of entering the promised land. The author's warning to the Hebrews still speaks to us today, don't let your heart grow hard, and don't miss out on God's incredible promise of eternal rest.

DAY 1 – MONDAY

HEBREWS 3:1-6, JOHN 1:14-18, COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

FIX YOUR THOUGHTS ON JESUS

Hebrews 3:1-4:16 starts the first extended exhortation by the author of Hebrews. In Scripture, an exhortation is often used to earnestly encourage someone to live faithfully or obey God's Word. It is not just strong urging or encouragement, but also an appeal to take action. Specifically in 3:1-6, the action is to fix their thoughts on Jesus. The author first points to Jesus' perfect faithfulness to God's calling, just as Moses was faithful, and then shows why Jesus is far greater. Moses was a faithful servant in God's house, but Jesus is the Son over God's house. He is the builder, architect, and rightful heir. As believers, we are safe in his house if we hold firmly to our courage and the hope we have in Him.

Hebrews' second major comparison highlights Christ's greater honor and position than the great lawgiver of Israel, Moses. This paragraph likens their differences to those between a servant and a son. Both were faithful to their missions, leading their followers or "households". But Moses was faithful within God's house, whereas Christ was the builder of the house, that is, the Creator. This holds true whether one takes "house" to mean "family" or "dynasty," and both may well be intended. Jesus was also a heaven-sent messenger and high priest, as well as God's very Son, while Moses was only a servant. Sons can inherit authority over households where servants cannot. And where Moses was "bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future", Jesus speaks what God is saying now. But the climax of the comparison between Moses and Jesus is that we are his house, but only if we hold firmly and persevere.

- Craig Blomberg, Darlene Seal, and Alicia Duprée

This is more than a call to admire Jesus from a distance. The Greek word for "consider" is often translated to look intently, **to dwell on Him with undivided attention**. When life takes our gaze toward earthly worries and concerns, Hebrews reminds us we share a heavenly calling. Our faith isn't built on tradition or even the example of great servants like Moses; it's anchored in the living Son, the chief author and perfecter of our faith, who reigns over all.

REFLECTION

Where are your thoughts fixed today? Reflect on this question for a time. Spend longer than you think you need or may even feel comfortable with. When you're done, assess whether your thoughts drifted toward fear, comparison, or self-reliance. Now take time to bring your thoughts back to Jesus. Consider His faithfulness in every trial, His authority over your life, and His invitation to hold fast to hope. **Your courage is found in knowing you belong to His house, under His care, forever.**

DAY 2 – TUESDAY

HEBREWS 3:7-19, PSALM 95, JOHN 10:6-16

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE

Hebrews 3:7-19 echoes Psalm 95, warning us through Israel's history. God had rescued His people, parted the sea, fed them in the wilderness, and guided them by His presence, yet they still doubted Him when circumstances grew hard. Their unbelief wasn't always loud rebellion; sometimes it was quiet resistance to God's leading.

In the verses just before this warning that we read yesterday, we're reminded that Jesus is greater than Moses, the faithful servant who led Israel through the wilderness. Moses was faithful in God's house, but Jesus is the Son over God's house, the architect and rightful ruler. That means when we hear His voice, we're not just hearing a messenger, we're hearing our great Leader, the One who has gone before us, who conquered sin and death, and is bringing us into God's eternal rest.

The danger is the same for us as it was for Israel: to let fear, hardship, or distraction harden our hearts against His leadership. Every day is an opportunity to trust Him again, to follow where He leads, and to rest in His care. So often we let fears steer us more than our faith, but the truth is, our great Leader has already gone ahead, preparing the way. If we can trust Him with our eternity, we can trust Him with today's worries. His voice is ready to guide me into life, peace, and the safety of His presence.

The same Jesus who is our faithful Leader calls us to follow Him step-by-step. He is the Good Shepherd, and he wants to give us a rich and satisfying life. **If we keep trusting His voice more than our fears and more than the thief who comes to destroy, we will not wander, but enter His promised rest.**

REFLECTION

Listening to God's voice means quieting the constant noise and learning to recognize His steady whisper through Scripture, prayer, and His Spirit's nudges. He often speaks in ways that are subtle yet deeply personal, guiding us through both ordinary moments and big decisions. What distractions keep you from hearing Him, and where might He already be speaking if you slowed down to listen? Do you need His guidance in a specific area of your life right now? Find some quiet moments to listen to Him today.

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY

HEBREWS 3:12-19, ISAIAH 53, 1 CORINTHIANS 10

DON'T HARDEN YOUR HEART

The audience of Hebrews lived under pressure to return to the safety of their old traditions. Following Jesus in their day meant losing social standing, family ties, and even possibly their livelihood. In Corinth, believers faced a different challenge: a culture of wealth, idolatry, and moral excess lured them into compromise. Both groups heard the same warning: *"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."*

In Hebrews 3, the author recalls Israel's wilderness rebellion. God rescued them miraculously, yet they refused to trust Him. Psalm 95, as we read yesterday, says: *"Do not harden your hearts as Israel did."* Paul echoes this in 1 Corinthians 10: *"These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did...If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall."* Outward religion, impressive activity, or a sense of confidence is no substitute for a heart truly anchored in God, in Moses' day, Paul's day, or our day.

Where Israel failed, Jesus succeeded. Isaiah 53 foretells the Suffering Servant who bore our sin in perfect obedience: *"But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed."* Christ endured the judgment we deserve so we could enter God's true rest, not by performance, but by faith that endures.

This warning is just as urgent today. Like the Hebrews, some of us face pressure to retreat to give up on following Jesus, choosing comfort over courage, acceptance over faithfulness. Like the Corinthians, others are tempted to compromise, choosing pleasure over holiness, distraction over devotion. Our culture prizes self-expression, self-protection, and self-sufficiency, but Hebrews reminds us: perseverance in faith does not grow in isolation. **We need a community with fellow believers that encourages us towards repentance and challenges us to pursue the ways of Jesus, so we can keep soft hearts and not rebel against the Lord.**

REFLECTION

Where are you tempted to shrink back into what feels familiar or indulge in what feels easy, possibly avoiding the harder path of obedience? Are there daily habits, small compromises, or constant distractions that quietly dull your sensitivity to God's voice? What intentional step could soften your heart toward Jesus today? Perhaps it begins with more time in His Word, silencing the endless social media scroll, or confessing something you've been ignoring.

DAY 4 – THURSDAY

HEBREWS 4:1-13, GENESIS 2:1-4, JOSHUA 21:43-45, ISAIAH 26:3-8,
MATTHEW 11:28-29, REVELATION 14:12-13

ENTERING GOD’S REST: A PRESENT AND ETERNAL INVITATION

Hebrews 4:1-13 moves from Israel’s failure to enter God’s rest to the ongoing promise available for His people today. From creation, God established a rhythm of rest, not just a physical pause, but deep spiritual peace and restoration in His presence.

The “rest” promised in Scripture was never only about Canaan. Israel’s wilderness generation missed it through unbelief, and the Promised Land was only a shadow of the greater rest God offers. This rest is both present and future: sustaining us now and pointing to eternity, where God will wipe away every tear.

In Matthew, Jesus invites us, “Come to me... and I will give you rest”. Through Him, we can practice Sabbath Rest where we cease from striving, trust His finished work, and live in the peace of His presence. Having a regular rhythm of practicing Sabbath rest is important for us to incorporate, as it recenters our hearts back to the Lord on a regular basis. **God’s “rest” is still available, but it must be entered by faith and obedience.** The author of Hebrews urges us to enter that rest now, holding fast to faith and obedience so we do not miss it.

Beginning to practice Sabbath can feel both refreshing and uncomfortable, like stepping off a moving sidewalk while everyone else keeps rushing by. At first, you may feel restless or guilty for stopping, but as you set aside work, hurry, and distractions, you begin to notice God’s presence in simple things: unhurried meals, lingering conversations, extended time in prayer, and space to breathe. Over time, Sabbath becomes less about doing nothing and more about being renewed, restored, and refreshed.

REFLECTION

We often chase temporary relief, forgetting that Jesus offers lasting rest, now and forever. Reflect on the temporary reliefs you find yourself drawn to. Why these things? How have you discovered that they don’t bring about a true rest.

This passage calls us to listen to His voice, rest in His peace, and live with hope anchored in the eternal Sabbath God has promised. Do you have a Sabbath rhythm in your home? What could it look like for you to set aside one day a week to “cease striving” and rest in the Lord?

DAY 5 – FRIDAY

HEBREWS 4:12-16, ISAIAH 55:8-13, PSALM 119:105-112, EPHESIANS 6:10-18

GOD'S WORD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE

Hebrews 4:12-16 warns that hearing God's Word without true faith leads to spiritual fatigue and distance from Him. To enter and continually experience the rest described in chapter 4, we must cultivate reverence for God and open our lives to His "living and active" Word, not only through preaching, but also through personal reading, study, and meditation that penetrates our hearts and leads to active trust and obedience.

But here in Hebrews 4, "God's Word" is more than just the Bible as we know it; it's God's active, living communication to His people. This includes the Old Testament Scriptures quoted in Hebrews, the gospel message proclaimed by Jesus and the apostles, and God's present voice speaking through the Holy Spirit. It encompasses all of God's revelation, written, spoken, or proclaimed through Scripture, creation, people, signs, and Spirit-led conviction. Always empowered by the Holy Spirit, His Word brings promise, comfort, conviction, and direction, revealing the living voice of God. **True rest for our souls is found by humbling ourselves and entering into a personal relationship with God through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

God's Word penetrates deeply, revealing the heart's true intentions beyond outward faith. Like a sword, it cuts to the innermost being, judging thoughts and attitudes; nothing is hidden from His sight. This could be terrifying, except that we have a Great High Priest in Jesus. His leadership is personal and compassionate; He knows our weaknesses, speaks through His living Word, and invites us to come boldly to His throne of grace. In every trial, decision, and season of waiting, He goes before us, leading us into life, peace, and the safety of His presence.

There is comfort in knowing that He sees all, knows all, and yet still welcomes us to come close and let His Word convict, guide, instruct, and change us. These verses warn that although His Word exposes us, because of the work of Jesus, we don't have to come toward God's throne in fear; we can run with confidence. There, mercy washes away our guilt, and grace strengthens us in our need. We pray knowing He hears us and is for us.

REFLECTION

Where do you most need to let God's living Word speak truth into your life right now, and will you bring that area boldly to His throne of grace today? Where do you need Jesus to lead you?

DAY 6 – SATURDAY

REFLECTION DAY

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, re-read *Hebrews Chapters 3 & 4*.

This week, we saw how Hebrews reveals Jesus as our Greater Leader, far surpassing even Moses, Israel's greatest lawgiver. Moses was a faithful servant within God's house, but Jesus is the Son over the house, its builder and rightful ruler. As the Good Shepherd and Great High Priest, He calls us to fix our thoughts on Him, trust His voice, and resist the drift toward fear, compromise, or self-reliance. Where Israel failed in unbelief, Jesus succeeded in perfect obedience, securing for us a present and eternal rest.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about the Lord this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to apply this truth about God to your walk with Him?

DAY 7 – SUNDAY

REST DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.