

HEBREWS 3:7-13

Hebrews 3:7 (NOTES)

- "just as the Holy Spirit says" - The writer is attributing the Psalm passage to the Holy Spirit. This is inspiration. All Scripture is God-breathed. 2Timothy 3:16-17
- "TODAY" - Today is the period of grace. It is that window during which every person called to faith in God must respond before God hardens the person's heart and closes the door to salvation. Today is RIGHT NOW! Isaiah 55:6-7, 2Corinthians 6:2
- "IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE" - God calls sinners to repent and turn to Him through faith in His Son. He does this through the power of His Spirit. John 6:44-45, 10:27-30, 16:7-11

Hebrews 3:8 (NOTES)

- "DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS" - God calls, and we respond with a softened heart. To reject the Gospel is to harden your heart. The hardening occurs as the decision is made to reject. The more one rejects, the more one hardens his own heart. At some point, God will harden the rejecter's heart permanently. Exodus 9:7, 35, 10:1-2
- "AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS" - God led the Hebrews out of 200 years of slavery and hard labor. He used Moses and Aaron to lead them out. He performed 10 plagues against Egypt and Pharaoh, then the miracle of the crossing of the Red Sea, the manna, then water, then quail. But, they refused to enter the Promised Land out of fear God would not provide and protect them. They rejected His offer of a land flowing with milk and honey. Numbers 13:1-14:45

Hebrews 3:9 (NOTES)

- "SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS" - By testing the Lord and refusing the gift of the Promised Land, God did not allow that generation to enter. He locked them out. He provided for them for a generation (40 years), and let the next generation enter. Numbers 14:29, Hebrews 3:17

Hebrews 3:11 (NOTES)

- "THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST" - God locked them out of the Promised Land just like He locked Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden (Paradise), and just like He will lock out of the eternal city everyone who rejects the Gospel. Genesis 3:24

- What is this "rest"? To enter the Promised Land is to enter His rest. The spiritual equivalent is to enter Christ. Hebrews 4:9

Hebrews 3:12 (NOTES)

- "take care" - is a stern warning with eternal consequences.
- "brethren" - Not "holy brethren" as mentioned earlier. The writer is appealing to the non-believing Hebrews. He is preaching the Gospel to them and calling them to repentance and faith in Christ.
- This is an interesting repetition of history. God called the Hebrews out of out of bondage in Egypt and into the Promised Land. They rejected and sealed their fate. Again, in this passage ("brethren"), God is calling Hebrews (the name of this book) out of the Egypt of their day (the world) into the Promised Land. Those who reject the call will seal their fate. Hebrews 10:26-31
- Egypt = the world. Pharaoh = Satan. Bondage = sin. Moses = Christ. The Red Sea = baptism. So, what is the Promised Land refer to spiritually? Heaven? The New Jerusalem? Eternity with Christ? No, it refers to the life on earth before the second Coming/Day of the Lord when we receive our glorified bodies and go to be with Him forever. To accept the Gospel and trust in Christ does not immediately transport one to eternity with Jesus or into heaven. We are still on the earth fighting the spiritual battles of life, but we are in fellowship with God and He is present in our lives. The Promised Land = this present life with God - our Christian walk.
- "an evil, unbelieving heart" - is that heart which rejects the Gospel.
- "falling away from the living God" - For Jews who had followed God's Word (OT) their entire lives to reject their own Messiah (Gr. Christ) was to fall away from the living God.

Hebrews 3:13 (NOTES)

- "encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today"" - Witness one to another before night comes and grace ends. John 9:4
- "hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" - How does sin deceive? It promises joy, happiness, freedom, pleasure. But, it only seems to provide those things for a time. Ultimately, only life with Christ can ever give true joy, freedom, pleasure. Ultimately, sin destroys - like leprosy deadens the nerves and the body decays.