

I. Intro

A. In July and August, we read through Exodus and Joshua

1. The story became a parable for our Christian walk
2. The imagery pointed us to Jesus

B. The book of Hebrews builds on this structure

1. It was written to Jews in the early church to explain how Jesus was always the plan
2. It reminds us that we are part of a bigger story and Jesus is the main character

C. Let's read Hebrews 3

II. Text

A. Hebrews 3:1-14

1. If God is building a home among His people
 - a) Moses was a servant in a tent in Israel
 - b) Jesus is the builder of a house in the New Testament
 - (1) We are the house that Jesus is building
 - (2) Therefore, what we have in Jesus is supremely better than Moses
 - (a) The cross was better than the Passover
 - (b) Baptism is better than the Red Sea
 - (c) Pentecost was better than Sinai
 - (d) The holy Spirit is better than stone tablets
 - (e) You are a better tabernacle than the wilderness tent
 - (f) Eternal life is better than winning the promised land
2. Even though Jesus is better than Moses, we can still be just as rebellious as Israel
 - a) It's easy to lie to yourself about your own condition
 - b) It's easy to go to church and live a faithless life
 - c) It's easier to point as someone's sin than deal with your own
3. This lifestyle will rob you of God's promise...rest
 - a) Israel was promised rest if they obeyed
 - b) We are also promised rest if we obey

B. Hebrews 4:1-7

1. For Israel, rest was the payoff for obedience to God
 - a) Obeying God brought rest from the daily struggle
 - b) Obeying God brought a final rest in the promised land
 - c) But, only some from Israel enjoyed the rest
 - d) The disobedient were not allowed to enter into rest
2. For the Christian, rest is also our payoff for obedience to God
 - a) Our rest comes in the form of "right now" peace
 - (1) The Christian is promised rest without resolution in every situation
 - (2) We don't know how it will work out, but we know it will
 - b) Our rest also comes in the form of "eternal" rest
 - (1) We who endure to the end will inherit a new heaven/earth with Jesus
 - (2) We will live forever without the burden of sin and death
3. The writer is using Israel's rest to warn us
 - a) Not everyone will experience the "now" rest or the "eternal" rest, but you can
 - b) God gives everyone the same gift, it's called "TODAY"
 - c) Use the gift to make a decision "today" to walk in obedience to Jesus
4. The question is now raised "why Jesus?"
 - a) The Jew would say, can't I just walk in obedience to Moses law?
 - b) The modern world would say, can't I just be a good person?

C. Hebrews 5:1-6

1. The answer to "why Jesus" is "because this is what God decided"
 - a) God decided that all sin must be punished
 - b) God decided that a High Priest would sacrifice a goat once a year to take Israel's punishment for sin
 - c) God decided Aaron (Moses' brother) would be the first priest
 - d) God decided this structure was the foundation for Jesus
2. The writer also argues that God deciding things is nothing new
 - a) He uses Melchizedek to make his point
 - b) Melchizedek was a king/priest who showed up in Genesis

- c) God picked Melchizedek as a king/priest and Abraham didn't argue with it
- d) Abraham honored God's decision by paying a tithe to Melchizedek
- 3. This chapter is the answer to all our "why" questions
 - a) Why do we need Jesus? Can't we be good people?
 - b) Why do we need Jesus? Can't any religion reach God?
 - c) Why do I need Jesus? Can't I save myself?
 - d) Why does Jesus get to tell me right or wrong? Can't I choose that?
- 4. God created this world and He set the rules
 - a) We can choose to obey Him and live in rest
 - b) Or, we can choose to disobey Him and never experience that rest
 - c) There is no middle ground

III. Conclusion

A. Let's summarize Hebrews 3-5

- 1. Jesus is our better Moses, but we can still live worse than Israel
- 2. Obedience brings rest, but we must be obedient to Jesus
- 3. God's plan for salvation and transformation comes through Jesus

B. Jesus is the only way to God

- 1. Make a decision "today" to turn from sin and to Jesus

IV. Promise

A. Hebrews 4:12-13