

“Today, If You Hear His Voice”

Sunday, August 30, 2009

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...

Today, we are going to be looking at the second major warning in the Book of Hebrews, where this phrase is quoted from the Old Testament, no less than three times. Let's look at it:

Hebrews 3

7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, 8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, 9 WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS.

10 THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART; AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS'; 11 AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'“

This passage speaks to *us* (you and me), and it speaks to us of TODAY...

Yes, this day...today! And tells us that IF TODAY we (you and I) hear His voice, that *we should not* harden our hearts.

Today...if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart! We find this *as the basis for the second major warning* in the Book of Hebrews, which deals with warnings to us who believe concerning the coming kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. How can we know it is directed to those who are looking forward to the coming Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ? It is because of the context of the first two chapters of the book! The first chapter deals with seven OT prophecies, the context of each deals with the coming kingdom. And the first major warning in the book, deals with telling us not to drift away from such knowledge and understanding — using the Children of Israel as our example of having done just that.

And just so we catch the importance of this warning against hardening our hearts, it is mentioned a perfect number of times...it is mentioned THREE times. First in our opening passage we just read in Hebrews 3:7. It is mentioned again in

Hebrews 3

14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end; 15 while it is said, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME.”

Hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end...our assurance with respect to what? It is with respect to our “heavenly calling” in 3:1, the call that we have to enter the rest that is yet future for the people of God.

And then finally this same warning is spoken for a third time in

Hebrews 4

6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it [the Sabbath rest], and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, [speaking of the Children of Israel] 7 He [God] again fixes a certain day, “Today,” saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.”

Is that possible? That we could harden our hearts? If it were not possible, then why the warning? And why would the writer of Hebrews say the following, after the first mention of this warning:

Hebrews 3

12 Take care, brethren [holy brethren who have a heavenly calling], lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.

Is it possible for holy brethren, who have a heavenly calling, to have an evil and unbelieving heart and fall away from the living God? Again, if it were not possible, then why the warning?

IF it is possible — to have an evil and unbelieving heart...if it is possible to harden our hearts — then let’s ask a few questions:

- How would it be done?
- What would it look like? And then...
- What would be the outcome of a hardened heart?

Our passage itself gives us an example of a group of believers who hardened their hearts. Let’s look back at the passage and see what it says about this group of believers:

Hebrews 3

7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, 8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,

Who is the “they” here? It is the Children of Israel. And according to this, HOW, WHERE and WHEN were *their* hearts hardened? It was:

- As they provoked God
- during a day of trial,
- in the wilderness...

But **how** would we “provoke” God? And **what** would our “wilderness” look like? And what is our “day of Trial”?

You know, we can we learn from their mistakes? In fact according to Scripture, *we are supposed to learn from their mistakes!* We can see this in the admonition by Paul to us through his writings to the Church at Corinth, when he says:

I Corinthians 10

1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

This portion of the passage here in I Corinthians speaks to the fact that this group of people — which Paul is using as our example — are saved people! And there can be NO question as to whether or not this was a CHRIST-CENTERED salvation/deliverance, due to the facts that are given about them:

- **They were under the cloud (which speaks of God’s presence)**
- **They passed through the Red Sea (which speaks of baptism)**
- **They ate spiritual food (which speaks of the manna, the Bread which came down out of heaven, i.e. one form of spiritual sustenance)**
- **And drank spiritual drink (which speaks of the water from THE ROCK...WHICH FOLLOWED THEM, WHICH WAS CHRIST and another form of spiritual sustenance).**

But what happened to this group? Paul tells us:

I Corinthians 10

5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

Being *laid low* is a Spirit-given way of saying “THEY DIED”. Which, in a sense, we might wonder if that is such a shocking thing that some *would die* on their trek to the promised land! I mean—people die every day, right?

But here— THEY DIED IN THE WILDERNESS!!! All of them—all 600,000 men 20 years and older DIED! In fact, specifically 603,550 (Ex. 38:26) men (minus two) died, besides women (ages 20 and older coming out of Egypt). That may have meant at least 1.2 million adults DIED! Minus TWO —Joshua and Caleb!

And THAT, my friends, SHOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED! There should have been no grave in the wilderness! They —EACH ONE OF THEM — should have made it into the Promised Land, receiving the promises on offer to them! Because each one of them could have made it! Each one of them should have made it, because they were all under

the cloud, they were all baptized into the Sea, into Moses and into the cloud, and they all ate spiritual food and drank spiritual drink from the Rock which followed them...Christ! The necessary sustenance for LIFE was totally available to them! (Just as it is for us!)

But BECAUSE GOD WAS NOT WELL-PLEASED WITH THEM (due to their continued provoking Him in the wilderness in their day of trial), they died in the wilderness, short of their goal! They lost out on their inheritance. They were LAID LOW in the wilderness in *untimely* fashion!

And in going further in the passage, we can see that **we** — you and I — come into view here in Paul's reminder of these things in I Corinthians:

I Corinthians 10

6 Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved.

I Corinthians 10

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

And so, "Today [Aug. 30, 2009], if you hear His voice...do not harden your hearts!"

And so concerned is God for His people, that He makes sure that there is NO LACK of information on just HOW this PROVOCATION of the Lord happened on the part of Israel in the wilderness, especially since these things happened and were written for *our admonition!* Obviously, He does this so that we can be duly warned, mentioning it no less than three times right here in our passages in Hebrews chapters three and four. I think somewhere in here, we need to pay close attention! In fact, we need to give all the more earnest heed to what the Spirit says, don't you think?

In fact King David was concerned for his people about the very thing that Paul was concerned for us. (Again, we see God's concern for His people, in that the Holy Spirit inspired these two great men of God, placing on their heart a concern for His people, and moved them to pen these thoughts!) See David write:

Psalm 95

**1 O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.
2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.**

**3 For the LORD is a great God, And a great King above all gods,
4 In whose hand are the depths of the earth;**

The peaks of the mountains are His also.
5 The sea is His, for it was He who made it; And His hands formed the dry land.
6 Come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

7 For He is our God,
And we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Today, if you would hear His voice,
8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
As in the day of Massah in the wilderness;

9 “When your fathers tested Me,
They tried Me, though they had seen My work.

10 “For forty years I loathed that generation,
And said they are a people who err in their heart, And they do not know My ways.
11 “Therefore I swore in My anger, Truly they shall not enter into My rest.”

Here we have more information about the PROVOCATION of the Lord in the wilderness. Something happened at Meribah, Something happened as in the day of Massah “in the wilderness”!

Exactly what happened there? We can turn to Exodus and find out the details leading up to these things. I’d like for us to understand a little about the background.

The Children of Israel had just been saved out of Egypt by the death and shed blood of the paschal lambs the night of the Passover. Prior to this night, they had been living in slavery in Egypt, owning nothing. But the night of Passover, they had become wealthy! And had been released from slavery. They were the FIRST-BORN sons of God, *who could now go and worship Him in the wilderness.*

Shortly after leaving Egypt, they came to the Red Sea, and with Pharaoh’s changed mind (about letting them go free), he was in hot pursuit behind them. They cried out to the Lord, and God very-powerfully opened up safe-passage for them through the RED SEA. (I’m sure a sight that would be awe-inspiring by anyone’s standard!)...and not-so-safe passage for the Pharaoh’s army behind them. God’s redeemed people had only to turn and see the dead bodies of Pharaoh and his army and his horses. GOD HAD TRULY, MIRACULOUSLY DELIVERED THEM—out of death, into life! And so they *sang praises* to Him ... there...in the wilderness...

Exodus 15

1 Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and said, “I will sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted; The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea. 2 The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will extol Him. 3 The LORD is a warrior; The LORD is His name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; And the choicest of his officers are drowned in the

Red Sea. 5 The deeps cover them; They went down into the depths like a stone. 6 Thy right hand, O LORD, is majestic in power, Thy right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

Yes, they sang their hearts out to the Lord! Can you even imagine how ecstatic they must have been?

And just so that WE know that THEY knew the reason for their salvation...we only have to continue reading the next verse of their song:

Exodus 15

17 “Thou wilt bring them [speaking of themselves] and plant them in the mountain of Thine inheritance, The place, O LORD, which Thou hast made for Thy dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Thy hands have established.

Yes, they sang. Just like David encouraged his people to do at the beginning of Psalm 95; and just as we have sung this morning, praising our God Who has delivered us out of death for a purpose!

They KNEW that they had an inheritance on offer to them! Why that is just like US, isn't it? We sing praises to the Lord for what He has done just like we have TODAY! And we KNOW, too, don't we? We know well, why He has redeemed us out of slavery, and that God will bring us in and plant us in the mountain of His inheritance, The place, where the LORD has made for His dwelling — The sanctuary, which His hands have established — so that we can be with Him...in His presence...an inheritance reserved in heaven for us!

At the end of this singing and dancing before the Lord, praising Him for what He has done for them...three more days pass by! (Please remember what we are doing here...we are looking at the events leading up to their provoking God in the wilderness at Masah and Meribah. We are not there yet, but we are getting there, so hang on for a moment. But we need to see this, because these things happened as examples to us and were written down for our instructions! Let's see what happened next:

Exodus 15

22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. 23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah.

24 So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” 25 Then he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree; and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them.

Before we go any further in this passage, let's stop for a moment and consider the purpose for God *testing them*. Why do you think God would test His people? Why did He do it then? And why does He do it now? Actually God makes His purposes for testing His people abundantly clear. We can see a few of many statements about His purposes for this:

Exodus 16

4 ...that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.

Exodus 20

20 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin."

Deuteronomy 8

16 "In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.

You see, God tests His people with GOOD IN MIND. It is for our good! To strengthen us. To give us opportunity *to receive blessings in the end*, apart from which we will not be blessed, for suffering must precede glory! This is a Scriptural principle!

Even in the New Testament, we can know that God tests us — not to our detriment, for God only intends good for us! Remember what James says:

James 1

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result...

Our testing produces endurance. Our endurance has a perfect result! So what is the end result?

James 1

12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

(And of course, those who love Him will obey Him! ALL OF THIS IS FOR BLESSING IN THE END.

So now let's get back to the Children of Israel at Marah, where God tested them with bitter water, in order to see what they would do, and in the end, the purpose was to teach them again that He would take care of them. He turned the bitter water into sweet water!

Exodus 15

25...There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them.

26 And He said, “If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer.”

27 Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date palms, and they camped there beside the waters.

Yes, God showed them something there, didn't He? Just a very short time into their journey (less than one month out), once again He proved Himself faithful, didn't He? And this wasn't the first time He had worked on their behalf. These people had been witness to His protection of them during the 10 plagues in Egypt, protection by the blood on the door posts and lintels of their houses the night the angel of the Lord traversed the land of Egypt. Just out of Egypt, they had seen the parting of the Red Sea! And then they had seen bitter waters made sweet by a *tree being thrown into the waters*, at the command of God. And now...He had brings them to a place of blessing, where there were 12 springs of water and seventy date palms.

They had reason to sing, didn't they? Just as we have reason this morning to sing His praises! Don't we?

He was meeting their every need, along the way, in the wilderness, wasn't He? Along with the testing, (and that for their benefit!) He protected them and provided for them ALL their needs!

And yet it STILL happened, again and again! Even after these things, one might think that God's people would learn that His intent for them was GOOD. (Oh! That we would learn this!) Even after these things, when God sought to test them again, they continued to grumble, rather than trusting God, allowing Him to bless them yet another time. Let's see what happened next:

Exodus 16

1 Then they set out from Elim [the place where the 70 date palms were and the 12 springs of water], and all the congregation of the sons of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt. 2 And the whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

At this point they had been in the wilderness for one month! They had left Egypt after the night of Passover, which was the 14th of the first month, so on the 15th they began their trek. And here we are — one month later. And the whole congregation of the sons of Israel once again grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

3 And the sons of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the LORD'S hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to

the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

What happened to the praises? Where were the timbrels and the dancing and the singing?

Yes, God still met their needs. That very night God sent quail to the camp of Israel. The next morning He sent the MANNA! And in the midst of telling Moses that He was going to do this, God identified the fact that the people had not grumbled against Moses, but rather against the Lord Himself:

(Now remember that we are looking at these details, because “these things were written for our instructions, these are examples to us, that we might take heed to stand, lest we fall! So each of us must pay attention to what we can personally learn here, from the Israelites in the wilderness.) Up to this point, God had:

- saved them out of death
- gave them safe passage through the Red Sea
- made bitter waters sweet
- supplied date palms and springs of water
- brought quail their way (enough to feed the whole lot of them)
- and rained manna down from heaven, six days out of seven!

After Exodus chapter 16 (which is where the Manna was initiated, along with the commandments concerning the gathering of the manna, with repeated emphasis on the 7th day of rest in this chapter), we now see them coming to the place called Rephidim. It is here that the events took place that are given to us as the second warning in the Book of Hebrews, which we read at the very beginning of the message today, this place which came to be called Massah and Meribah, because it was here they quarreled with God and tested Him. Let’s pay close attention to exactly what happens here on the heels of the things leading up to this.

Exodus 17

1 Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water that we may drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?”

3 But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, “Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”

This is the third time that it is recorded that the Children of Israel grumbled against the Lord, and they haven’t even been in the wilderness for three months yet. The third time was here at Rephidim where they quarreled with God, and “tested” Him — questioning His intent for them in bringing them out of Egypt. Therefore the place became known as Massah and Meribah. And interestingly enough, this is the place wherein God instructed

Moses to STRIKE THE ROCK, causing water to flow from the Rock. Here at this place — Rephidim.

Oh, one thing to note about this place: the name Rephidim means *a place of beds, a place where one takes rest.*

Exodus 17

4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, “What shall I do to this people? A little more and they will stone me.” 5 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us, or not?”

It is here at Rephidim, that the rock which followed them in the wilderness, was smote! Here at this place of rest, spiritual water gushed forth *freely* for the people to drink! And the picture here — this smiting the rock in the wilderness with water freely being given, of course typifies Jesus’ death on the cross when He was smitten for our transgressions, and through faith in Him, we can freely drink from the well of water now, can’t we? We can freely imbibe the spiritual sustenance that we need for LIFE!

Rephidim seems an appropriate place for this picture, doesn’t it? Since we can do no work for our salvation by grace through faith, it seems appropriate that the picture would have the Children of Israel *at rest*. God provided them water to drink from the ROCK. They could do nothing to get that for themselves.

But then something else took place here...at Rephidim!

Exodus 17

8 Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim.

Please notice it wasn’t Pharaoh’s powerful army fighting against them at this point; they had been drowned a month previous. This is Amalek! If you will remember, Amalek was a descendant of Esau. Esau was the first born son of Isaac — the first born of the twin who were born to Isaac and Rebekah. Esau disdained his birthright, in order to feed his flesh, selling the birthright to his brother Jacob (now called Israel). Amalek, through the lineage of Esau — being closely related to Israel (born first amongst these twins — becomes a type of *the man of flesh* (born first) juxtaposed to the man of the spirit (born second). And it is none other than Amalek who becomes the first enemy to come against Israel in her trek to the Promised Land.

Let’s see what we can learn about this formidable, yet unexpected foe:

Exodus 17

8 Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. 9 So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose men for us, and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” 10 And Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

11 So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. 12 But Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set.

13 So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. 14 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this in a book as a memorial, and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.” 15 And Moses built an altar, and named it The LORD is My Banner; 16 and he said, “The LORD has sworn; the LORD will have war against Amalek from generation to generation.”

No it wasn't Pharaoh's army that fought against Israel at Rephidim. It was the man of flesh. And he came stealthily! In reiterating this story to Israel in Deuteronomy, Moses said:

Deuteronomy 25

17 “Remember what Amalek did to you along the way when you came out from Egypt, 18 how he met you along the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God. 19 Therefore it shall come about when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget.

And, as we have already seen, hundreds of years later David could write about these things that happened to his forefathers at Rephidim, warning his people of what their forefathers had done in the wilderness; David giving them the same warning that the author of Hebrews gives to us. Recall what David wrote:

Psalm 95

7 For He is our God,

And we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Today, if you would hear His voice,

8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,

As in the day of Massah in the wilderness;

9 “When your fathers tested Me, They tried Me, though they had seen My work.

10 “For forty years I loathed that generation,

And said they are a people who err in their heart, And they do not know My ways.

11 “Therefore I swore in My anger, Truly they shall not enter into My rest.”

What should we be doing then? We should be encouraging one another as long as it is still called “Today”.

We need to be encouraging one another as long as it is still called “Today”, and, according to Hebrews chapter three, we should be doing this for a specifically stated purpose: “...lest any one of you (us) be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Be hardened...by the deceitfulness of sin... How could we be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin? And if we were hardened by the deceitfulness of sin, what would that bring about?

There is quite a bit said in the NT about the possibility of our being deceived. The Apostle James warns us NOT TO BE DECEIVED.

In the midst of saying that we are to consider our trials with JOY, he tells us not to be deceived. We are to know what those trials do for us. James tells us that trials produce ENDURANCE! Then he tells us that ENDURANCE might have its perfect result in us:

- that we might come to maturity (become perfect and complete), and
- that we might LACK NOTHING...even attaining to wisdom! Wisdom so
- that we wouldn't have doubts as to WHY God is allowing trials in our lives; so
- that we wouldn't DOUBT His goodness to us; so
- that we wouldn't be a double-minded man, unstable in all our ways.

Because a double-minded man, who is unstable in all his ways just might become deceived! And James warns us NOT to become deceived! Let's read it again, and a bit further:

James 1

12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; the ENDURANCE has had its perfect result! for once he has been approved [JSOC], he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

DO NOT BE DECEIVED...About what? THAT SIN BRINGS FORTH DEATH!

AH! The deceitfulness of sin: sin brings forth death!

DEATH juxtaposed to LIFE... which for the Christian would mean:
Loss of our inheritance which is on offer to us and is reserved in heaven for us!

So let's make sure we understand this. God has good reason for TESTING US. And in the midst of our wilderness, at the time of our day of trial, let us not provoke God as they did!

Hebrews 3

7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, 8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS..."

12 Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end; 15 while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS..."

Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.

6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, 7 He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."...

9 There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

Our wilderness is our day-to-day lives right now.

Our day of trial is now, as God is testing us in order to strengthen us, in order that He can ultimately bless us with a full inheritance.

So please...let us NOT harden our hearts!