

**Because of Unbelief**  
**Hebrews 4:19**  
By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to show the danger of unbelief.

Intro:

1. The N.T. sets forth the importance of faith.
  - a. **Heb 11:6**
  - b. **2 Cor 5:7**
  - c. John said that the victory that enables one to overcome the world is faith (1 Jn 5:4).
  - d. Paul declared that the Jews, because of unbelief, were no longer God's children, but that God's people "stand in faith." (Rom 11:20).
2. However, there is a danger of unbelief.
  - a. This test is a clear sound admonition (Heb 4:19)
  - b. Some had their faith shipwrecked (1 Tim 1:19-20)
  - c. Timothy was urged to "hold faith" (1 Tim 1:5).
  - d. Paul said that he had "kept the faith." (2 Tim 4:7).
3. I want to impress upon all of us the necessity of faith, and the grave danger of unbelief.

I. Unbelief Illustrated (**Heb 3:16-19**)

- A. Unbelief in Numbers 13&14
  1. The twelve spies, after 40 days in Canaan, brought a glowing report of the land (**Num 13:23-27**).
  2. However, unbelief caused them to believe:
    - a. "the people (in Canaan) are stronger than we." (**Num 13:31**).
    - b. "We were in our own sight as grasshoppers." (**Num 13:33**).
    - c. "Let us return into Egypt." (**Num 14:4**).
  3. The people refused to listen to men of faith (**Num 14:6-10**).
  4. The people rebelled against God (**Num 10:9**).
- B. Israel suffered because of unbelief (**Num 14:28-39**).
- C. The believers, Joshua and Caleb, went into the Land of promise.

II. The case of Israel becomes an Example for God's People today. (**Heb 4:11**).

- A. This is an age of skepticism and infidelity.
  1. Scoffers are still revealing their own doubt, and unbelief (**2 Pt 3:1-5**).
  2. Men advocate atheism and agnosticism in the classroom.
  3. Men write their unbelief in books.
  4. On television programs men openly denounce faith in God.
- B. The case of Israel should move God's people to:
  1. Study God's word diligently, carefully, and consistently.
    - a. Faith comes from God's word (**Rom 10:17**).
    - b. "These things are written that you might believe." (**Jn 20:30-31**).
  2. Participate in classes.

3. Give careful attention when God's word is being preached (**Lk 8:18**).
  4. Teach God's word to others. (**Heb 5:12**).
  5. Avoid, as much as possible, situations where God's word is being attacked.
    - a. Avoid false teachers at events
    - b. Attend meetings at faithful churches instead, etc.
- C. The unbelief of the Israelites caused them to forget the burdens and problems in Egypt, and too long for a return to bondage and slavery (**Num 14:4**).
1. Lack of faith today will motivate one to become "entangled" in the world (**2 Pt 2:20-22**).
  2. If one dies in unfaithfulness, he has missed Heaven's rest (**Heb 4:1**).

Conc:

1. Although Israel lacked faith in God's word, the Lord meant what He said.
2. God's word is still:
  - a. Living
  - b. Powerful
  - c. Discerner of thoughts and intents of man's heart (**Heb 4:12-13**).
4. Faith is belief that God is, and that God means what He says.

### **Hear**

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

### **Believe**

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever + in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

### **Repent**

Luke 13:3

I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

### **Confess**

Rom 10:9 — Rom 10:10

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

### **Be baptized**

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

## **Remain Faithful**

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.