


Hebrews 2:18-3:15


New American Standard Bible 1995

1 ²¹⁸ For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has
 2 suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are
 3 tempted.
 4 ³ Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling,
 5 consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our
 6 confession; ² He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as
 7 Moses also was in all His house. ³ For He has been counted
 8 worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the
 9 builder of the house has more honor than the house. ⁴ For
 10 every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things
 11 is God. ⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a
 12 servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be
 13 spoken later; ⁶ but Christ *was faithful* as a Son over His
 14 house—whose house  we are, if we hold fast our confidence
 15 and the boast of our hope firm until the end.
 16 ⁷ Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says,
 17 “Today if you hear His voice,
 18 ⁸ Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me,
 19 As in the day of trial in the wilderness,
 20 ⁹ Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me,
 21 And saw My works for forty years.
 22 ¹⁰ “Therefore I was angry with this generation,
 23 And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart,
 24 And they did not know My ways’;
 25 ¹¹ As I swore in My wrath,
 26 ‘They shall not enter My rest.’” [Psalm 95:7b-11]
 27 ¹² Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an
 28 evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.
 29 ¹³ But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is
 30 *still* called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by
 31 the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of
 32 Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm
 33 until the end, ¹⁵ while it is said,
 34 “Today if you hear His voice,
 35 Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.”

Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Circle repeated words or related ideas.
- Comparisons or contrasts?
- Arrows under purpose or explanation.
- Mark unusual or symbolic language. 
- Are there commands or instructions?
- Are there conditional (if–then) statements?
- What else do you observe in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- Why compare Jesus with Moses (v. 2)? What comes to mind about the faithfulness of Moses? How would you compare the faithfulness of a servant and a son?
- What does it mean that we are “his house”? Under what conditions?
- What are “our confidence and the boast of our hope”?
- Why insert the lengthy quotation from Ps 95 here? Why repeat part of it (v. 15; cf. 4:7)?
- How do we “hold fast” (v. 6, 14)?
- What other questions come to your mind?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What would faithfulness look like in your life?
- What would testing God look like in your life?
- What would hardening look like in your life?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

For additional thought and discussion:

- Read Psalm 95 to see the context of the quotation the writer uses. Why do you think he chose to use only the second half of the psalm? How do the two halves of the psalm relate to each other?
- Read Exodus 17:1-7 and Numbers 14 to see the context of Psalm 95. How do those passages help you understand why the writer of Hebrews repeatedly uses references to the psalm?
 - What might that suggest about the concern he had for his first-century audience?
 - How does that background help you think about application today?

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,
but draw everything from them,
and suffer nothing to remain
hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see
Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.