

# The Failure of a Generation

Text: Finish Hebrews 3:10-11; Hebrews 3:16-19

Date: 2-25-24

## 2. The results of unbelief (Heb. 3:10-11)

Unbelief never has a positive or good outcome. Unbelief for the believer results in punishment and loss of reward. Unbelief for the unbeliever always results in eternal punishment and damnation (John 3:36).

Some results of unbelief are:

- **God is grieved**
- **Continual wandering from God**
- **Failure to experience God's ways**
- **No rest**

Spiritually speaking, *rest* means “a change of state from activity or work to a cessation from work that results in a feeling of refreshing tranquility and an absence of tension or worry; especially that God provides”.<sup>1</sup>

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What was the cause of the failures of that generation? Can we learn from those failures?

### 1. The nation fell because they sinned (Heb. 3:17).

The people sinned by not obeying God's word, for rebuking God-ordained leadership, and for displaying outright rebellion over a long period of time.

The people failed and the consequences were that all their carcasses died in the wilderness. For 40 years the people suffered, through toilsome and troublesome problems.

What about NT believers? We have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, declared holy and set apart for God's work, we are indwelt by the HS and we are to use our bodies as a temple for God, we have been given all things that pertain to life and godliness, we are partakers of the divine, and told to follow heavenly things. Yet, many believers are fleshly, proud, selfish, self-centered, and have a narrow focus on the things of this world. That is sinful.

### 2. The nation fell because they were stubbornly disobedient (Heb. 3:18).

“Their refusal to go forward was a clear case of disobedience to the revealed word of God” (Kent 77). The people willingly disobeyed and stubbornly chose to follow their own path and own choices. They erected a wall of obstinacy between God's will and their own desires.

Victorious Christian living is missed because of stubborn refusal to obey God in all things.

### 3. The nation fell because of unbelief (Heb. 3:19).

“The disobedience of **unbelief** forfeits blessing and brings judgment”.<sup>2</sup> For the believer it is a loss of reward. For the unbeliever it is spiritual death.

The people could not blame God. They could not blame their circumstances. They could not blame other people. They could only blame themselves for failing to trust God,.

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<sup>1</sup> Brannan, R., ed. (2020). In [Lexham Research Lexicon of the Greek New Testament](#). Lexham Press.

<sup>2</sup> MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1983). [Hebrews](#) (p. 94). Moody Press.

In reverting to Judaism the people would be disobediently living faithlessly against His revelation just as their forefathers had exhibited in the wilderness.

“All of this points out the absolute seriousness of this second warning. Don't ever let yourself get to this point in your Christian life, beloved. To do so is to put yourself in the place where the Lord will have to discipline you because He loves you too much to let you remain in such a condition” (Small – Sermon Notes used with permission).