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When We Hear the Voice of God

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WHEN WE HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD

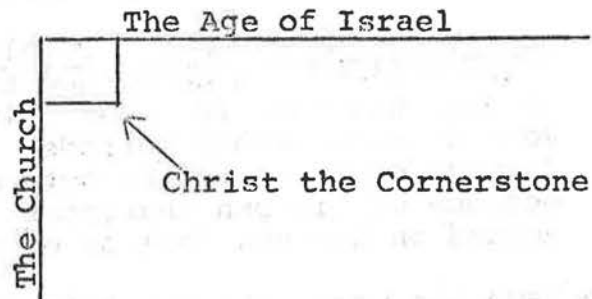
A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
HEBREWS 3:6-7
NUMBER 13

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HEBREWS 3:6 "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." "But Christ" sets up a contrast between Moses as a super-grace believer and hero to Christ our one CELEBRITY. Hero-ship belongs to anyone who will hear the Word and enter into super-grace. This comes from learning doctrine.

Then it says "as a son" and the words are "hos huios" and it means an adult, mature son. Moses was "hos therapon" and this means a noble servant. But Christ is the adult mature Son. Then we have "over his own house" and the words are "epi oikos." Moses was "en oikos" and it means "in his house" but Christ is "epi oikos" and it means over his own house. He is over the house which belongs to him which is the Church. Jesus Christ is the adult Son, the Heir, he is over the House of Israel and over his own house, The Church, and he is the chief cornerstone.

From this little diagram we get a true picture of Christ. He is the cornerstone and holds them together. This is why he is the CELEBRITY.



Moses dealt with shadows, but Jesus Christ dealt with realities. Moses testified of reality but Jesus Christ is the reality. Next we read "whose house are we" and this is not referring to Israel but to the Church. The words "are we" is the present, active, indicative of "eimi" and it means we are now and will always be his house, his body, his bride.

NINE UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS HOUSE

1. EVERY BELIEVER IS IN UNION WITH JESUS CHRIST.
This was never true before, but is a mark of the Church Age. This is a mark of those in Christ's house. The Holy Spirit at the point of salvation takes every believer and enters him into union with Christ. This was not true before the cross.
2. EVERY BELIEVER IN THE CHURCH AGE IS INDWELT BY CHRIST.
This was not true of Moses' time. Not true in Old Testament.
3. EVERY BELIEVER IS INDWELT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.
This is a unique feature of the Church Age. This is equipment for the conflict in which we are engaged.
4. EVERY BELIEVER IS HIS VERY OWN PRIEST.
They had priests to represent them before God. Now every believer represents himself before God. The veil has been torn away. The holy of holies is open to the most humble believer. This demands the super-grace life.

5. THESE IN THIS HOUSE HAVE A COMPLETED CANON OF SCRIPTURE.
All divine revelation is now in written form. No need for dreams and visions and trances. No direct voice from God anymore. This is his voice. GOD ONLY SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD. He uses others to help you, he uses circumstances to teach you. God only speaks in his Word.
6. THESE WHO LIVE IN THIS HOUSE HAVE A GRACE WAY OF LIFE.
This grace way is superior to all that has gone on before. This grace way supercedes anything that has existed prior to this dispensation. This is the dispensation of grace.
7. EVERY BELIEVER IS IN FULL-TIME CHRISTIAN SERVICE.
Every believer is a worker, a witness, a missionary. We represent Jesus in the Devil's world.
8. THOSE IN THIS HOUSE ARE IN THE INTENSIFIED PHASE OF THE ANGELIC CONFLICT.
It is going to get worse before it gets better. It will even be more intense than the Tribulation.
9. BELIEVERS ARE COMMANDED TO AIM FOR THE SUPER-GRACE LIFE.
Every believer is commanded to build an Edification Complex. He does not mean for your priesthood to get rusty. Don't let your ambassadorship corrode. God does not depend on the faithfulness of us as to the outcome of his plan, but rather on the essence of his own character. Your work for Christ does not depend on how you feel or on what you think.

Now we have the word "if" and this is a third class condition, "ean" plus the subjunctive. The "we" refers to all believers of the Church Age. It refers specifically to super-grace believers in the Church Age

An Explanation

At this point let us look at an explanation of the use of the word "if" to introduce a condition.

- 1st class condition is "ei" plus the indicative.
- 2nd class condition is "ei" plus the imperfect (in present time);
"ei" plus aorist and pluperfect (past time)
- 3rd class condition is "ean" plus the subjunctive
- 4th class condition is "ei" plus the optative

- 1st class condition is a true statement
- 2nd class condition is a false statement
- 3rd class condition is maybe yes and maybe no
- 4th class condition is I wish it were true but it isn't

The house spoken of here in which we live is the Church Age and it is the best house of all history. Now once you reach super-grace there is a big "if" and that's why we have this "if" right here. It is not an "if" that refers to salvation. Once you believe there is no "if" that ever comes in front of salvation. The "if" here is referring to consistency in learning Bible doctrine. "If we hold fast" and this is an aorist, active, subjunctive of "katecho."

"Kata" is the preposition of norm or standard. "Echo" means to have and to hold. So this means to have and hold Bible doctrine according to the norms and standards of truth given in Scripture. It means to hold in one's memory, it means to steer toward a goal. Back in Hebrews 3:1 we had the word "katanoeo" and there it means heading toward a goal, maintaining a course. It means attending Bible class every time Scripture is taught. So verse one gave us the objective and verse six now tells us how to get there. This is Bible doctrine in action. This is storing Bible doctrine in the human spirit.

So this statement is saying that if you keep on taking in doctrine, you will eventually reach the super-grace life. It means not to let anything interrupt your way of life of moving on toward this goal. The word "confidence" is the accusative singular of "parressia" and it means assurance that comes from the authority of doctrine.

The next words are describing the fulfillment of this kind of study. The goal is occupation with Christ. The word "rejoicing" is the accusative singular of "kauchema" and the object of our rejoicing is Jesus Christ. The next word is "hope" and this is a genitive singular of "elpis" but the word is more than hope. It means confident expectation. It doesn't mean "I hope I will get to heaven" but rather carries the idea of confident expectation. The experience of death and life after death is now solved for we have confident expectation of what is out beyond death. The word "firm" is an accusative singular of "bebaios" and it means stabilized. "Unto the end" is "mechri plus telos" and it means clear to the end of the Christian life here in this earth. For us in the Church Age, it will happen something like this.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-17 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." You won't need stability in eternity for you will already have it. It will be a part of your perfect essence.

HEBREWS 3:7 "Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To-day if ye will hear his voice," With this verse we now begin the study of reversionism as it was experienced by the Exodus generation when they came out of Egypt. This was one of the most serious reversion experiences of all time. Here was a generation of believers who totally failed. The word "wherefore" is from "dio" which is a combination of "dia" and "hos" and it means "For this reason." Because of the celebrityship of Jesus Christ and because every believer is a priest and has great potential we are not supposed to be overcome with reversionism but move on to stability.

The words "Holy Ghost" come from "to pneumato hagion." Now "Hagion" means "Holy" and "Pneumato" means not ghost but "spirit." It is a neuter noun meaning breath or spirit. This is the third member of the Trinity who was responsible for the Canon of Scripture. So this should read "According as the Holy Spirit."

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 PETER 1:21 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Both of these verses explain this idea. These writers had the ability to write the mind of Christ. The Holy Spirit sustained them and carried them along so they could do this. The Holy Spirit empowered them to write exactly what God wanted them to write. So by 96 A.D. it was finished and in Scripture is everything God wants us to know. So he never has spoken since by a dream or a vision or a trance. He does not speak in a direct voice. He speaks through his Word. The word "saith" is a present, active, indicative of "lego" and it means to communicate. This is the divine side of the communication of the truth of Scripture.

We will now in these next verses have a quotation from Psalm 95:8-11. It is a story of the reversionism of the Exodus Generation. It was what we call the meribah revolution. Revolution is the rejection of divine authority. The word "today" is very important in this passage and is from "semeron." It refers to those happenings in 1440 to 1400 B.C. in the wilderness wanderings. Then David quoted it and that means that it was equally applicable to David's day which was about 1,000 B.C. Here the writer of Hebrews is quoting it so it means it was applicable to 67 A.D. And it is equally as applicable to us today. This is a continuing warning to reversionistic believers of all ages.

This "if" is "ean" plus the subjunctive and it means maybe you will hear and maybe you won't. Man always finds time to do what he wants to do. "Ye will hear" is an aorist, active, subjunctive. It means to hear and accept the authority of the one communicating the truth. The word is "akouo." (Get this principle here. There was no universal priesthood until the Canon of Scripture was completed. But in the Canon you now have the rules and the doctrinal information and you are on your own. You don't need a priest to go to God for you. You go for yourself on the basis of the information you have in your hand.)

THE DOCTRINE OF GRACE APPARATUS FOR PERCEPTION

We will call this doctrine GAP. It means grace apparatus for perception. It simply means the grace process whereby God has made it possible for us to know him and live the Christian life and the mechanics of this is what we call grace.

1. NOTE FIRST THE DIFFERENCE IN HUMAN AND SPIRITUAL I.Q.

In the physical human realm, a man can't move too far from the I.Q. with which he was born into the world. Those who work on human I.Q. tell us that in a lifetime one can't move up over four or five points in the I.Q. scale. I.Q. is his mental endowment and all people are different and have different I.Q. potential. But on the other hand, in the spiritual realm, God is able to do something and at the point of salvation every believer is equal to every other believer. Their spiritual I.Q. is the same. Ground is level at the cross.

Now Socialism breaks down right at this point. Socialism says that by doing certain things all can be made equal. But this is not so. Education does not equalize people. Human I.Q. does not solve man's problems. In trying to make all people equal we have lowered the standard of education and in lowering the standard of education, we have lowered the standard of discipline. This lowered academic discipline means we are turning out mediocre people. Education is not the solution to our problems. But in the spiritual realm, God brings equality through the New Birth and this is the only way it comes. Ordinary people can learn Bible doctrine too. So there is a distinction between human and spiritual I.Q.

2. HUMAN I.Q. IS EXCLUDED FROM GAP.
 Human I.Q. is not the dominant thing in learning Bible doctrine. God found a way through grace whereby ordinary people, regardless of human I.Q. can learn Bible doctrine. The command to learn Bible doctrine is given to all believers regardless of their human I.Q.

3. THE PERCEPTIVE LOBE IS THE LEFT LOBE OF THE MIND.
 Look at the doctrine of the soul.
Self-consciousness--This is where you are aware of your own existence. You know facts about yourself. You are a human being.
Mentality--This is the apparatus with which you think, it is called "Gnous" or mind. This is where you do your objective thinking. The "kardia" called "heart" in the Bible is the memory center and you have a vocabulary for thinking.
Volition--This is the positive and negative options you have in your mind and you can go negative or positive.
Conscience--Here are the norms and standards for your life and you build these as you take in doctrinal truth.
Emotion--This is the response, the feeling, the emotional response you make to the things you have learned.
Old Sin Nature--Your old sin nature has direct lines to all phases of your soul.
 Now the "gnous" or mind as we call it, is where you take in the truth and learn it, but you don't use it from the "gnous." You have to transfer it over into the human spirit, and store it there on the launching pad. You learn the word but now this is "doing the word" which James speaks about.

4. THE GRACE PROVISION FOR LEARNING BIBLE DOCTRINE.
 God takes the non-usable doctrine in the "gnous" and transfers it to the "kardia" and nine principles are involved in this process.
 - a. THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE.
 God has put the manna from heaven in the Canon. It is all in storage, in God's great divine deep freeze, waiting for us to take it out and use it.

 - b. THE CLASSROOM.
 This is the local church, the place for learning Bible doctrine. The class is now in session.

 - c. THE TEACHER
 This is the pastor-teacher given you by God. The system of teaching is monologue. The system is based on the authority of the pastor-teacher.

 - d. THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER WITH ABSOLUTE PRIVACY.
 You can come here and learn and be in privacy. You do not come to church to promote your social life. (I was in a church once where the pastor had people turn around and shake hands with people and say, "I love you." About the most stupid thing I can think of.) The church is not primarily a fellowship fraternity. It is a classroom and you are a private individual and you have a right to come and learn. (When someone asked me how many does your sanctuary seat, I said, "One your body is your sanctuary. This is an auditorium where we teach.)

- e. EVERY BELIEVER IS INDWELT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.
 Now this is what makes you equal to every other believer. The same Holy Spirit is in each of you, teaching you, giving you the instruction you need, applying the truth of the Word to your needs. We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
EPHESIANS 5:18 "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"
 - f. THE GRACE PROVISION OF REBOUND.
 This is your road back into fellowship. The road is always open. There is no fee. It is not a toll road. Use 1 John 1:9 and you are back in. God said so.
 - g. THE HUMAN SPIRIT IS THE FIRST TARGET.
Job 32:8, 1 Cor. 2:12
 Bible doctrine is not usable from the "gnous" but from the human spirit.
 - h. LAWS OF DIVINE ESTABLISHMENT THAT PROTECT US.
 The laws of the nation guarantee us freedom. The entire church is free and people in the Church are to have no pressure on them to believe or not to believe. But a government is not powerful enough to perpetuate itself over a too long period, say about 200 years. Sooner or later nations destroy those elements that made them free and great. Man goes from bad to worse. That's the story of the Garden of Eden. A nation must protect religious freedom. This is the separation of Church and State.
 - i. THE BODY IS DESIGNED SO WE CAN LEARN.
 Oxygen comes into the lungs and purifies the blood and the blood goes to the brain and makes it possible for the mind to think. This was provided for us through the grace of God.
5. THE MECHANICS OF GAP.
 The Bible must be taught according to doctrine and according to categories of doctrine. It must be taught according to the historical background against which it was written. Historical and geographical background must be understood. One Scripture must be compared with another. Scripture must be exegeted according to the accurate meaning of the words and the tense and force of the language.
6. THE FRAME OF REFERENCE.
 You learn one doctrine and then you build another doctrine on top of the one you have learned.
- a. One simple doctrine gives the background for understanding the more advanced doctrine.
 - b. This frame of reference in the human spirit now establishes a new conscience within the believer. Norms and standards are now changed and advanced and little by little come to conform to the mind of Christ.
 - c. This gradually leads to the divine viewpoint within the human spirit.

- d. It also handles the problems of the sub-conscious mind and also a guilt complex.
- e. This provides true content for prayer.
- f. It affords accurate information for witnessing and helps immature Christians to grow.
- g. It makes it possible to recognize false doctrine when it tries to come into the mind.
- h. It gives capacity for love, liberty, happiness. This is where the Edification Complex is built in the soul.
- i. It provides the capacity to detect what is important in life and what is not important. It gives true values in life.
- j. It opens the door so God can begin to share his perfect happiness with you.
- k. It causes the believer priest to function properly in the Devil's world.

This verse ends with the words "his voice" and the words are "autos plus phone." This is the very word of God, it is the mind of Christ, it is the voice of The Holy Spirit.

So this phrase says, "If you will hear and concentrate on his voice."