

# Hebrews 3:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

## Analysis

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The conclusion: 'they could not enter because of unbelief' (Greek 'apistian' - faithlessness). This summarizes the root problem - not lack of opportunity or ability, but moral inability due to unbelief. Reformed theology distinguishes between natural ability (they could physically enter) and moral ability (their sinful nature prevented faith). God's command reveals human responsibility; human failure reveals need for sovereign grace.

## Historical Context

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The promised land entrance was conditioned on faith, which the generation lacked. This establishes the pattern that salvation blessings always require faith, though faith itself is God's gift (Ephesians 2:8).

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. Why is unbelief the fundamental human problem beneath all other sins?
2. How does this passage demonstrate that God's promises require faith to appropriate?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ βλέπομεν ὅτι οὐκ ἠδυνήθησαν εἰσελθεῖν δι'  
**So we see that not they could enter in because**  
G2532 G991 G3754 G3756 G1410 G1525 G1223

ἀπιστίαν  
**of unbelief**  
G570

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 3:36** (Parallel theme): He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

**Jude 1:5** (Parallel theme): I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

**Mark 16:16** (Parallel theme): He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

**John 3:18** (Parallel theme): He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**1 John 5:10** (Parallel theme): He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.