

Yet with some of them, in fact with a whole generation, God was displeased!

Why? What did the Israelites who fell in the wilderness do to incur God's displeasure?

In Hebrews 3:7-19 we find the background for our text passage. Let's look at Hebrews 3 together.

Hebrews 3:7-19 (NIV)

{7} So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice,

{8} do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert,

{9} where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did.

{10} That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.'

{11} So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" {12} See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

{13} But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

{14} We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

{15} As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."