



Today

Hebrews 3
Verse by Verse

Introduction

**Greater
Than Moses**
3:1-6

**Psalms 95:
A Warning**
3:7-15

**More on
the Warning**
3:16-19

Conclusions



Introduction

Background of Hebrews

- The **audience** was made up of Jewish Christians who were now facing persecution.
- This was either from fellow Jews or from their pagan neighbors.
- Their big question would be:
- **Is it really worth it to follow this Jesus?**
- **Hebrews** is written as a letter, but the style is that of a sermon, maybe 45 minutes in length.
- Considered in that light, it reads like other sermons, both from the early church and from the synagogue of that day.

Previously in
Hebrews

What's in
Hebrews 3?

The
Challenge
for us

Previously in Hebrews

- In **Hebrews 1 and 2**, the author begins answering the dual question, "**Who is Jesus - and why should we bother to follow him?**"
- He is greater than the angels or any other means by which God has chosen to reveal himself to us.
- He is the perfect Savior for us since he became a man just like us.
- He was subject to temptation and even death, which he endured on our behalf.

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What's in Hebrews 3?

- In this chapter the author compares Jesus to **Moses**, showing that Jesus is superior.
- He is better just as son is superior to a servant in the same house.
- The author challenges us to do better than the children of Israel did when they came out of Egypt.
- Many of those freed from Egypt did not reach the Promised Land.
- Will we persevere in a way that they did not?

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The Challenge for Us

Key Verses

- Moses led Israel out of Egypt.
- Unfortunately, not everyone that he led out of Egypt made it to the Promised Land.
- A whole generation died in the wilderness because of their unbelief.
- Many people make initial commitments to Jesus Christ.
- This is much like taking that initial step out of Egypt.
- Yet many are content with a faithless, fruitless, and ultimately useless Christian experience.
- The time to change that for all of us is **Today**.

Key Verses: Hebrews 3:13-14

13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

The Challenge for Us

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Greater Than Moses 3:1-6

- **3:1 Apostle** Only here is this word used about Jesus.
- The **Gospel of John** repeatedly emphasizes that Christ was “sent” to us from God.
- **High Priest** This emphasizes the sacrificial nature of Christ’s mission.
- In His role as **Apostle**, Christ is God’s messenger to us.
- In His role as **High Priest**, He approaches God the Father on our behalf.

John
5:22-24

Moses as a
Servant

Christ as
the Son

John 5:22-24

22 For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.



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Moses as a Servant

3:5 servant This precise word is used only here in the New Testament.

It denotes a faithful friend to a superior, who solicitously regards the superior's interest or looks after his affairs, not a common or domestic servant.

• *The Complete Word Study Dictionary*



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Christ as the Son

Romans
8:14-16

- **3:5-6 Moses** is here portrayed as the best servant God ever had.
- But **Jesus Christ is the Son.**
- By virtue of who He is, He holds a higher position than Moses – a position of greater honor.
- We too are now part of the household of God.
- But note the **conditional nature of v.6** for us.

Romans 8:14-16

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

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Psalm 95

The Heart

Eternal
(In)Security

- **3:7** From here to **4:13** we have a long Warning Passage – the second in Hebrews.
- The author attributes the words of **Psalm 95** to the **Holy Spirit**.
- An anonymous human author wrote the Psalm – just like the letter to the **Hebrews**.
- As Scripture, both of them claim a divine origin behind the human author.
- They are given to us by the inspiration of God.

Psalm 95

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of
our salvation!
2 Let us come into his presence with
thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with
songs of praise!
3 For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

7 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
Today, if you hear his voice,
8 do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
9 when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof, though they had seen
my work.
10 For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, "They are a people who go astray in
their heart,
and they have not known my ways."
11 Therefore I swore in my wrath,
"They shall not enter my rest."

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11 Therefore I will say to the nations,
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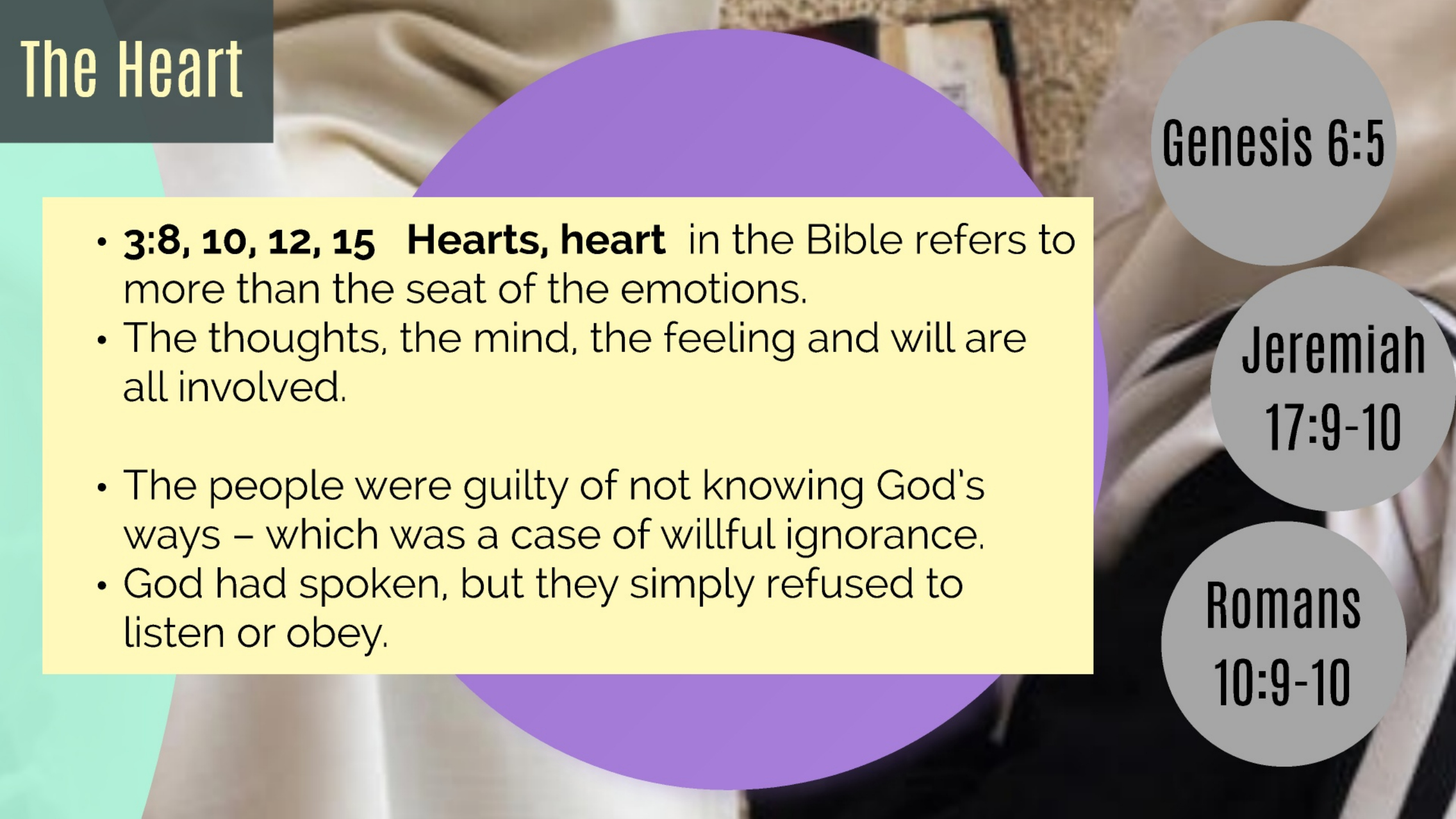
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The Heart

- **3:8, 10, 12, 15** **Hearts, heart** in the Bible refers to more than the seat of the emotions.
- The thoughts, the mind, the feeling and will are all involved.
- The people were guilty of not knowing God's ways – which was a case of willful ignorance.
- God had spoken, but they simply refused to listen or obey.

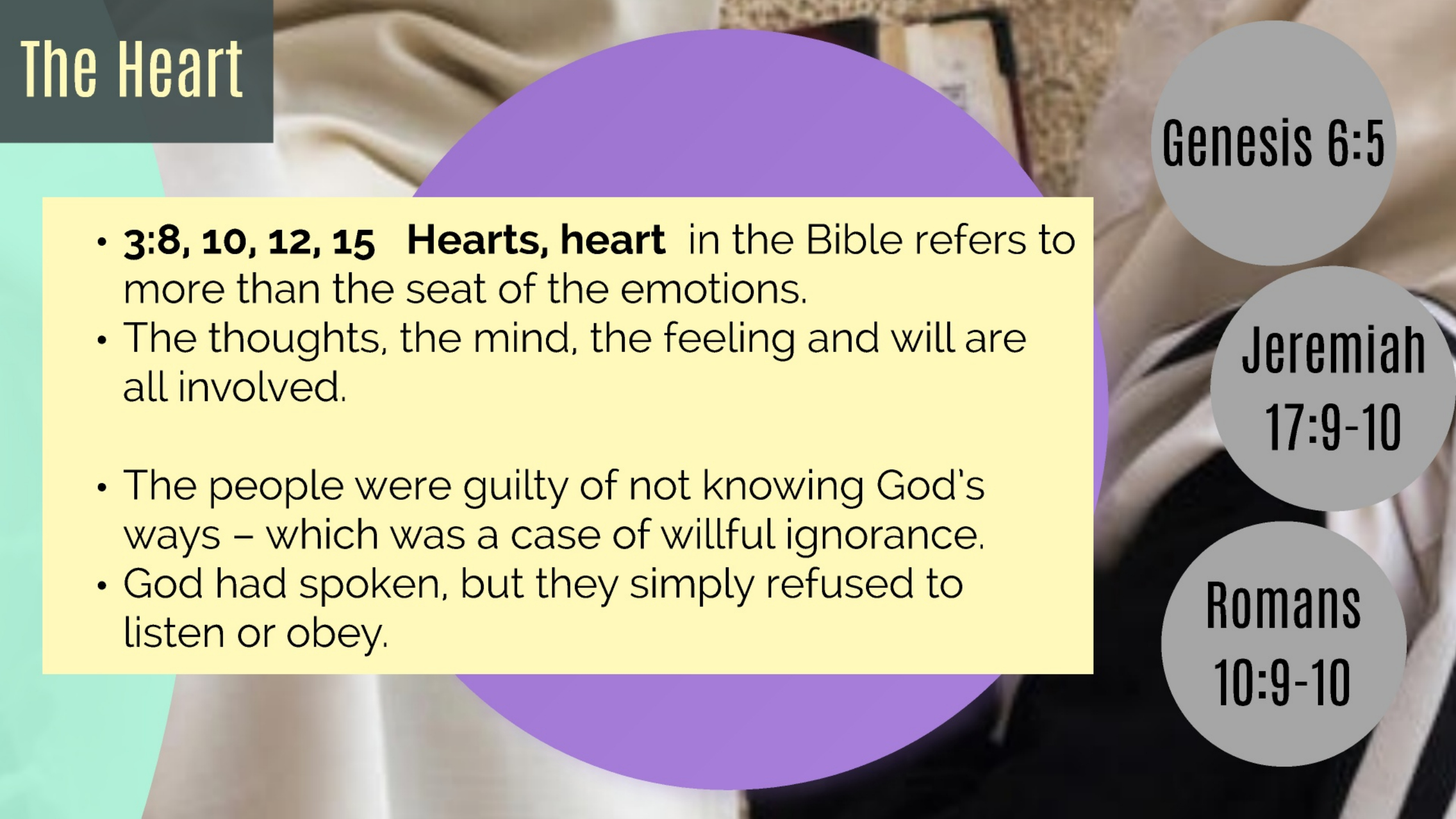
Genesis 6:5

Jeremiah
17:9-10

Romans
10:9-10

Genesis 6:5

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.



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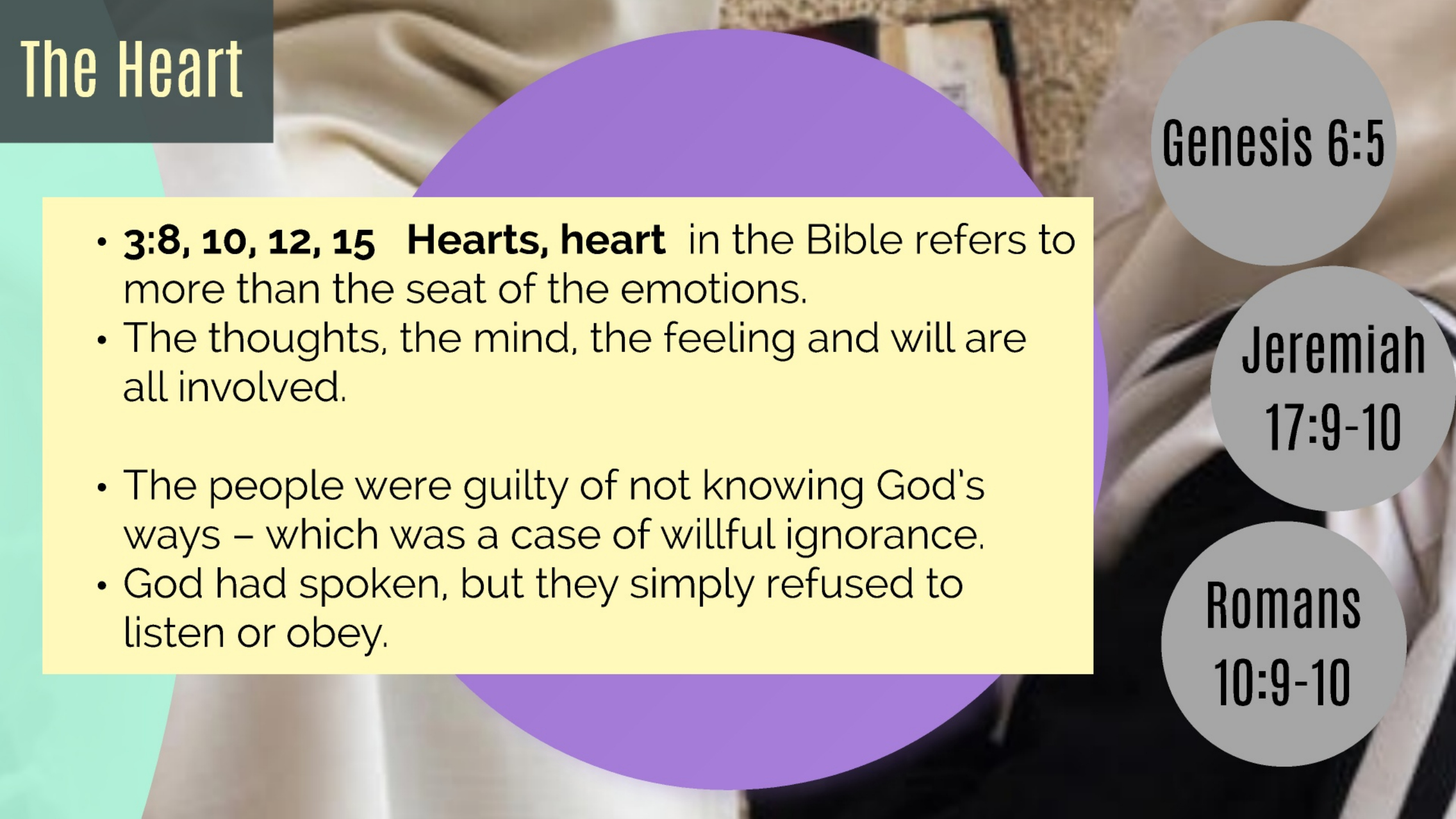
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Jeremiah 17:9-10

9 The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick;
who can understand it?
10 "I the Lord search the heart
and test the mind,
to give every man according to his ways,
according to the fruit of his deeds."



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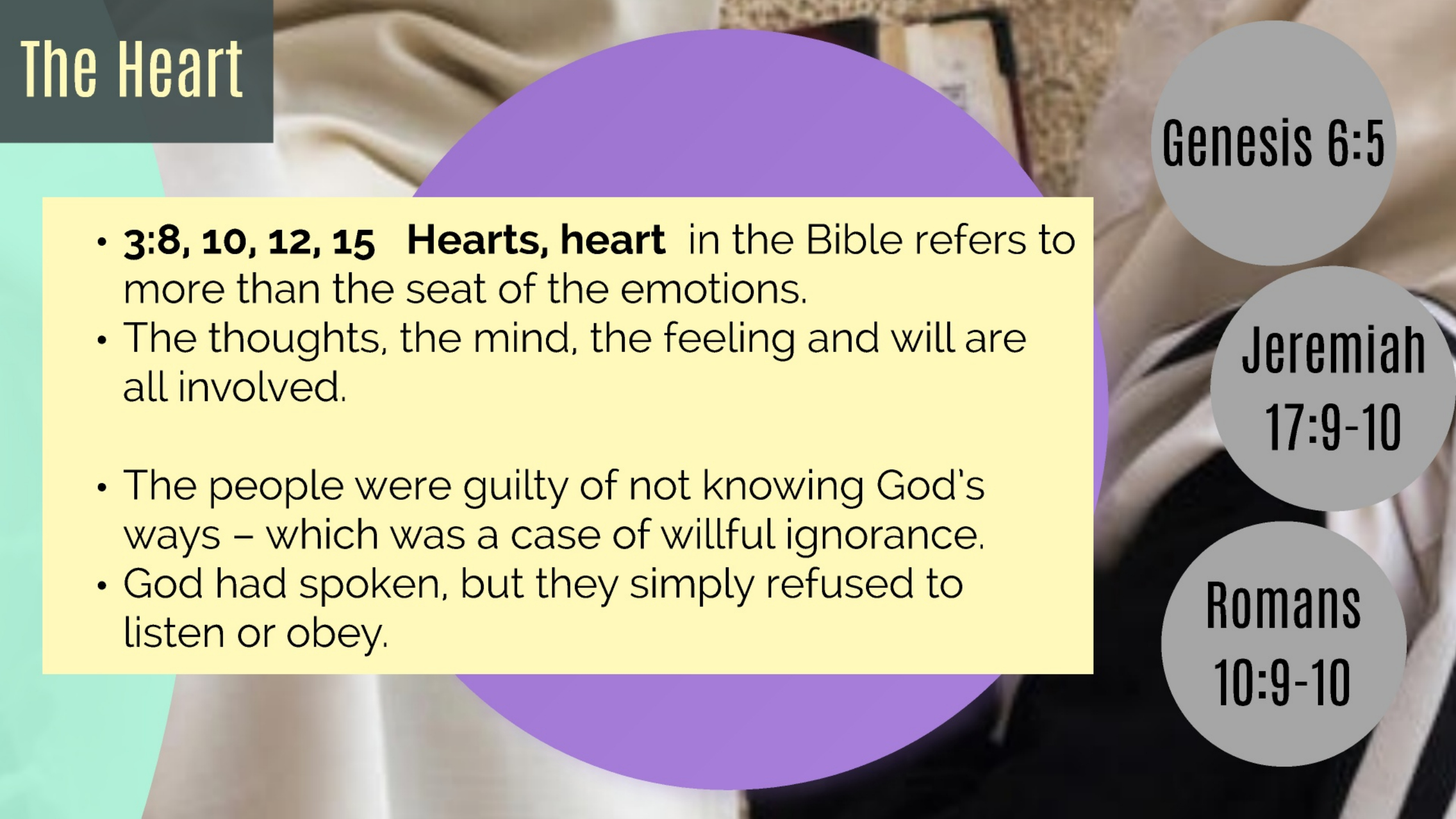
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Romans 10:9-10

9 Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.



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- **3:11-15** Tragically, a whole generation never entered God's rest because God disallowed it.
- Evidently, God found in them "**an evil, unbelieving heart.**"
- God calls His people to worship.
- A beautiful relationship with Him is always available, but not everyone is always willing to come.
- The author's audience was not rejecting belief in God – even the God of Israel – just an active faith in Christ.
- Holding fast to our confidence in Christ will be the mark of that active, living faith.

From
J. Vernon
McGee

Key Verses



J. Vernon McGee
(1904 - 1988)

pastor, radio Bible teacher

Friend, may I remind you that you can play at this thing too long ... There does come a time when it is too late, my beloved, too late to be saved. You can persist in rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ so long that finally you will be unable to accept Him ... I believe in the eternal security of the believer and in the insecurity of the make-believer ... Note that it is *eternal* life. It is forever. If it plays out in a week, or in a year, or until they sin, then it is not eternal life after all. They are not really His sheep if the life does not last forever.

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Today

God's
Spirit at
Work

Today

- The author, the psalmist and the Holy Spirit are united in their urgency.
- None of us are guaranteed tomorrow.
- The time to respond is today.

- Further, God the Father desires our fellowship.
- He waits eagerly for the prodigal to return home so that he can rejoice with him.

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God's Spirit at Work

Revelation
22:17

- The **Holy Spirit** speaks through the inspired Scriptures.
- This is why it is so needed that the Bible be read and studied when we gather together.
- The Holy Spirit also works directly in our hearts, bringing conviction of sin and confirming the truth of the gospel of Jesus.

Revelation 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

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More on the Warning 3:16-19

- **3:16-19** God intended more for Israel than simply departing from Egypt.
- **They needed faith to enter** into the life He had planned for them in the Promised Land.
- In perhaps the saddest case of majority rule ever, they never made it in.
- The people were saved from Egypt, but never settled in Canaan.
- **They were unable to enter because of unbelief.**

Hebrews
4:1-2

Matthew
11:28-29

Hebrews 4:1-2

Entering God's Rest

1 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.

2 For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, **because they were not united by faith with those who listened.**

Entering God's Rest

- For us, there is a place of spiritual rest and relaxation in our relationship with God – a confident relationship with Christ.
- There is an assurance that we belong to him.
- He wants us to enter into this assurance by faith.
- At this point we are less striving to please Him and more simply submitting to His will.
- We are still active, but it is activity motivated by loving obedience and faith.

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Matthew 11:28-29

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.



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- Most of those who came out of Egypt with Moses, did not enter the Promised Land.
- In the same way, many who are very close to Christ fail to exercise a saving faith in order to be united with him forever.
- Please do not harden your heart against the Holy Spirit's invitation.
- Jesus is waiting for your faith-filled response.

Romans
13:11-14

Key Verses

A Final
Prayer

Romans 13:11-14

11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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Romans
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Key Verses

A Final
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A Final Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,

- You have given us ample opportunity to know you, love you and listen to you. We know also that you desire our best.
- Dear God please accept us though we may be weak in faith and half-hearted in obedience.
- And transform us by your Holy Spirit's sanctifying grace.
- Make us into faithful servants of your Son.
- Help our lives to be more completely devoted to Jesus - starting **today!**
- In Christ,
- Amen.

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