



The Book of Hebrews

Lesson 3 Chapter 3: 1-6

May 20th, 2018

Jesus Is Greater Than Moses

It has been nearly 2,000 years now since God tore apart the Temple veil, signifying the end of an era that had lasted 1,500 years. It's difficult for us to imagine the difficulty a Hebrew would have had in accepting the fact that God had written "finished" over all his religious observances, associations, and concepts. A new day had dawned, abruptly and completely. The Jew had to face the revolutionary fact that Christ had eclipsed all others and that Calvary spelled the end of the law.

Superiority of Christ to Moses

Hebrews 3:1-6 (ESV) ¹ *Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,* ² *who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house.* ³ *For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself.* ⁴ *(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)* ⁵ *Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later,* ⁶ *but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.*

The author of Hebrews begins this chapter by identifying his readers as “*holy brothers*”, before moving into his theme. Clearly, this indicates that the audience is Christian. But, these were Christian Jews who were looking at Jesus with one eye and glancing back to Judaism with the other.

Verse one begins by mentioning heaven. Specifically, a calling that originates from heaven. But, the scripture shifts focus from a place (heaven), to a Person (Jesus) “consider Jesus,”.

Question for Discussion? Why would the author feel the need to guide his readers to focus on a person, rather than a place?

Ephesians 1:3 (ESV) ³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us **in Christ** with every spiritual blessing **in the heavenly places**,*

Ephesians 1:20 (ESV) ²⁰ *that he worked **in Christ** when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand **in the heavenly places**,*

Ephesians 2:6 (ESV) ⁶ *and raised us up with him and seated us with him **in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**,*

Ephesians 3:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ *so that **through the church** the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities **in the heavenly places**.*

Hebrews 3: 1...*consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,* ² *who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house.*

The Hebrew word used here for “consider” is *katanoēō*. It implies attention and continuous observation.

The word “*apostle*” means “sent one”. A *priest* was someone representing man to God.

Question for Discussion: Who was considered to be Israel’s greatest apostle?

These new Jewish Christians are being encouraged in verses one and two to get their eyes off Moses and to get them on Christ instead.

Question for Discussion: Why do you think it would be necessary for the author to instruct the Hebrews to shift their focus from Moses to Christ?

Moses...

- a) Was the man to whom God spoke face to face.
- b) Had seen the very glory of God.
- c) Briefly had God’s glory reflected in his own face...Exodus 34:29...“The skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him”.
- d) Was the one who led Israel out of Egypt.
- e) Delivered the Ten Commandments to the nation of Israel.
- f) Through God’s instruction...wrote the entire Pentateuch (Old Testament Law).
- g) Gave the plans for the tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant.

Old Testament laws were commonly referred to as the Law of Moses

Luke 2:22 (ESV) ²² *And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord*

Acts 13:39 (ESV) ³⁹ *and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.*

John 9:28 (ESV) ²⁸ *And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.”*

Given the level of honor and respect the Jews had for Moses, it’s understandable why the Holy Spirit would call upon Jewish readers especially to focus on Jesus.

Moses Was Great, But Jesus is Far Greater

Hebrews 3:3-4 (ESV) ³ *For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself.* ⁴ *(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)*

Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses because:

- He is both apostle and high priest.
- He brought a better covenant.
- He himself was the sacrifice that made the better covenant effective.
- As God, He made all things. **John 1:3 (ESV)** ³ *All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.*

The word for house here is derived from the Greek word “oikos”, meaning household. It refers to people, not a building or dwelling place.

Hebrews 3:5-6 (ESV) ⁵ *Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later,* ⁶ *but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son... And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.*

Moses was a servant. Jesus is by person a Son.

John 8:35-36 (ESV) ³⁵ *The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.* ³⁶ *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

The Greek word for servant here describing Moses is **therapōn**. It is a term of dignity and freedom, not of servility.

Question For Discussion: What is God's house referenced in verse six... "*but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son.*"?

Ephesians 2:22 (ESV) ²² *In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

1 Timothy 3:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ *if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.*

Moses was a servant in someone else's house. Jesus is a Son over His own house, His own people.

Hebrews 3:6 (ESV) ⁶... *And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.*

Question For Discussion: How can we know if we are really in God's house?

By holding fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

1 John 2:19 (ESV) ¹⁹ *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.*

Apparently there were many Jews who had fallen away, and it is because of them that the writer of Hebrews gives these words, which both warn and encourage.

John 8:31 (ESV) ³¹ *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,*

One of the clearest truths of the New Testament is that the Lord keeps those who belong to Him.

John 6:39 (ESV) ³⁹ *And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.*

Jesus has never lost anyone and will never lose anyone from His household. We should keep our eyes on Him. He is all we need. We are complete in Him.