

**"Jesus is Superior to Moses"**

**Part 1**

**Hebrews 3:1-6**

**Introduction:** Tonight as we return to our study of the book of Hebrews we have now come to chapter 3. Let us remember that the writer is writing to a group of Jewish believers who are struggling with walking away from Judaism. They were facing persecution from their fellow Jews because they had embraced Christianity. The pressure was so great that many of them were considering going back into Judaism. Therefore the writer of Hebrews has been inspired by the Holy Spirit to write this letter to show them that Jesus is better than the Old Covenant as well as all of those who were involved with the Old Covenant.

Now we need to know that as we work our way from Hebrews 3 through Hebrews 8:5 the writer is going to use typology to show that the Old Covenant was a covenant of "shadows".

**Hebrews 8:5**

*<sup>5</sup> Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.*

In other words the Old Covenant was a covenant that had its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. In this section the writer will point to Moses, Joshua, Aaron and Melchizedek. These were all "shadows" whose fulfillment was found in Jesus Christ.

In the section we are stepping into tonight the writer is going to show the Jewish believers that Jesus is better than Moses and he is going to do it in a way so as not to be offensive in his approach.

**i. The Jewish view of Moses.**

Before we get into this section we need to understand how the Jewish people viewed Moses. When I read the verses that are before us it makes me ask a question: "Why does the writer need to show these believers that Jesus was superior?"

Moses was held in the highest esteem in the mind of the Jew. Moses was the man who wrote the Pentateuch which is the first 5 books of the Bible. He was the man who spoke face to face with God. God spoke to the prophets through dreams and visions but to Moses

He spoke face to face. He was the man who met with God. He was the man to whom God delivered the Law and the blueprint for the Tabernacle. He was the man whom God gave the Tablets of Stone. He was the man who led Israel out of Egypt. He was the man who raised his staff and the Red Sea parted. He was the man who struck the Rock with his staff and the water flowed out. God preserved him when he was born and God buried him when he died. From his birth to his death the man's life was filled with miracles. In John chapter 9 where Jesus healed the blind man we can see how the people of Israel viewed Moses.

### John 9:26-29

<sup>26</sup> *Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? How opened he thine eyes?*

<sup>27</sup> *He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? Will ye also be his disciples?*

<sup>28</sup> *Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; **but we are Moses' disciples.***

<sup>29</sup> ***We know that God spake unto Moses:** as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.*

The Jews saw themselves as disciples of Moses. So, in the mind of the Jew Moses was highly esteemed and there was none greater. But the writer of Hebrews knew something that his readers did not know and that was that Moses was an Old Testament type of Jesus Christ. Moses was a shadow of Jesus Christ. He was great but Jesus is greater and that is what he is about to show his readers.

As we step into Hebrews 3:1-6 we shall see a list of ways in which Jesus is superior to Moses.

#### 1. Jesus is Superior in His Position.

##### Notice Hebrews 3:1a

As the writer opens this section he addresses the readers in a very interesting way. He refers to them as "holy brethren" and "partakers of the heavenly calling". I believe there is a message in each of these titles.

- a. **Holy brethren** - This title points to the completed work of Jesus Christ on their behalf. This is not a title that can be earned but it is a title that speaks of the **POSITION** bestowed to every person that has accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. You see the work of Jesus Christ was so complete that because we are in

Him we are seen by God as "HOLY BRETHREN". This was a reminder to the Hebrew believers of the finished work of Jesus Christ for them.

**Colossians 2:6-10**

<sup>6</sup> *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:*

<sup>7</sup> *Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*

<sup>8</sup> *Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

<sup>9</sup> *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

<sup>10</sup> *And **ye are complete in him**, which is the head of all principality and power:*

- b. **Partakers of the heavenly calling** - Let me show you what John Phillips says about this title:

*"The believer in Christ is also given a **heavenly calling**, in contrast to the calling of the Hebrew people, which was essentially earthly. In the Old Testament everything had to do with a **place**; in the New Testament everything has to do with a **Person**. In the Old Testament, to be in the sphere of blessing, the Jew had to be **"in the land"**, so much so that any time we see the Jew outside the land, he is in the place of punishment and correction and cut off from the blessing associated with the land. In the New Testament, to be in the sphere of blessing we must be **"in the Lord"**. For the Hebrew of old it was a matter of being **"in Canaan"**; for us today it is a matter of being **"in Christ"**. Thus the Holy Spirit reminds us repeatedly that our sphere is "in the heavenlies" in Christ (Ephesians 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10)."*

This was a great reminder to these Jewish believers of their riches in Christ. This would have been great encouragement to these people who had lost so much due to their faith in Jesus Christ. They were partakers of the heavenly calling and therefore this world was not their home. They were to live like their treasure was in heaven and not on earth.

**Application:**

This is a great reminder to those of us who are believers today also. As we have been saying we do not know what tomorrow holds for us as the darkness in our world increases and the hatred for followers of Jesus continues to grow. There may come a day when our faith will cost us much of what we have. If that day comes let us remember that we are

**PARTAKERS** of the heavenly calling. Because of our position in Christ we are in the realm of blessing. This world is not our home but heaven is our home.

### Notice Hebrews 3:1

There are 2 titles that the writer gives to Jesus here that are very important. We need to look at each one and consider them in the context of this verse.

- a. **Apostle** - An apostle was a messenger sent by God to represent God to man. Jesus was an Apostle in that he was sent by the Father to manifest the Father to all of mankind.
- b. **High Priest** - A high priest was a man who represented man to God. Jesus is our High Priest and this is seen in the sacrifice He made for us on the cross and also it is seen as He intercedes for us every time we sin.

But there is more here that the writer desires for his readers to see.

### Notice Hebrews 3:1 again.

The first word of the verse points back to what we looked in chapter 2. We must therefore take these 2 titles on a journey back to chapter 2 and then we can understand what the writer is pointing to. In chapter 2 we saw Jesus as our Apostle in the light that He is the Captain of our salvation. As our Apostle He was made perfect through suffering and that means that through the sufferings He experienced he can now perfectly relate to all the suffering which we go through as we pass through this world.

### Hebrews 2:10

*<sup>10</sup> For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

He was sent from God as the Apostle/sent One and as the Representative of the Father He chose to go through the sufferings so that He could identify with us in all we face.

We also saw Jesus as our High Priest in chapter 2 and we saw that as our High Priest He is merciful and faithful.

### Hebrews 2:17-18

<sup>17</sup> *Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*

<sup>18</sup> *For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*

So Jesus is superior to Moses because of the offices which Jesus occupies. He is Apostle and High Priest.

Now Moses can also be called an "apostle" for he too was sent from God to deliver the nation of Israel from the bondage of the Egyptians. He was God's representative to the nation of Israel. But the "salvation" which Moses provided was earthly. The salvation provided by Jesus Christ is eternal. Moses was a type/shadow of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So as we come to Hebrews 3:1 the writer is pointing us back to all that was said about Jesus in chapter 2 and in light of all that was said he encourages them to consider Jesus. The word "consider" here is very interesting and we need to look at the meaning. Let me show you how it is defined by Vines Dictionary.

**Consider** - *"to perceive clearly", "to understand fully, consider closely,"*

Now getting back to Hebrews 3:1 where the writer exhorts his readers to "**consider**" Jesus, I want you to understand this is a call to these people as well as to you and me to get to know Jesus even more than we do now. It is a call to never be satisfied with what we know about Jesus but to always desire to know Him more intimately.

Sunday morning we looked at part 1 of the letter to the Church of Laodicea and we saw the danger of being lukewarm in our Christian life. We need to discipline ourselves so that we are sure Jesus is at the forefront of our lives at all times. Let me show you the desire of the Apostle Paul.

### **Philippians 3:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

<sup>9</sup> *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

<sup>10</sup> *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

The writer of Hebrews knew that the more they focused upon Jesus the less they would be discouraged by the trials they were facing.

**Application:**

The same is also true for us. The more we get to know Jesus and the more we are focused upon him the less our trials will discourage us. You see it is in the trials that we will learn to know Jesus even more. Paul said he desired to know Him and the fellowship of His sufferings. Let me show you what Peter wrote to those who were under the persecution of Nero.

**1 Peter 4:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:*

<sup>13</sup> *But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

**Notice Hebrews 3:2a**

Now the writer will take his thought further. Here the writer points to the faithfulness of Jesus as an Apostle and High Priest. Jesus was obedient to carry out the mission which had been entrusted to Him by the Father. Let me show you a few verses.

**John 4:34**

<sup>34</sup> *Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*

**John 6:38**

<sup>38</sup> *For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.*

**John 17:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*

<sup>5</sup> *And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*

**Notice Hebrews 3:2b**

The writer is going to show that Jesus is better than Moses but he will **not** do it by pointing to the faults of Moses but by pointing to the faithfulness of Moses. He tells them

that Moses was faithful in all his house. This is not referring to Moses "home". This is a quote from Numbers 12.

**Numbers 12:7**

<sup>7</sup> *My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.*

Moses was faithful in the house but what was the house of God?

**Deuteronomy 6:22**

<sup>22</sup> *And the LORD shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes:*

The "household of God" was the Nation of Israel and so the writer of Hebrews is pointing to the faithfulness of Moses as he served God in the Nation of Israel.

**Conclusion:**

We must stop here tonight but I want to leave you with something to consider. What if God made a public statement about your service, would He be able to say that you are faithful?

**1 Corinthians 4:2**

<sup>2</sup> *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

If you are saved then you have been entrusted with spiritual gifts which are God's and therefore that makes you a steward.

**Matthew 25:14, 19**

<sup>14</sup> *For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.*

<sup>19</sup> *After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.*

There is a day of reckoning fast approaching.