

"Jesus is Superior to Moses"

Part 2

Hebrews 3:1-6

Introduction: Last week in our study of the book of Hebrews we started into chapter and we were looking at verses 1-6. It is in these verses that the writer is showing the Hebrew believers that Jesus is better than Moses. Now there are really 2 thoughts in the mind of the writer as he takes us into this section:

1. These believers were on the edge of returning back to Judaism and under Judaism they considered themselves to be disciples of Moses.

Last week I explained that these Jewish believers held Moses in very high esteem. In John chapter 9 we can see the Jewish view of Moses in the conversation between the religious leaders and the blind man whom Jesus healed.

John 9:26-29

²⁶ *Then said they to him again, What did he do to thee? How opened he thine eyes?*

²⁷ *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?*

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

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

Moses was the man with whom God spoke to face to face. He was the man whom God used to perform many miracles. God used him to part the Red Sea, He used him to bring water from the rock, He used him to bring the 10 plagues upon Egypt and the list goes on and on. God preserved his life at birth and God buried him after he died. Moses was great in the eyes of the Jewish people. But there was one greater and His name is Jesus.

So in this section the writer is, in a very gentle way, comparing Jesus with Moses to show them that Jesus is superior to Moses. Moses was a "shadow" of Jesus Christ and the writer will explain that as we move through these verses.

2. The other thought in the mind of the writer as he presents this section is to explain to them how to enter into God's "rest".

This is where the writer is going with this section but he is slowly working his way to that thought. You see when Israel came out of Egypt God promised them if they walked by faith and believed His Word that they would enter Canaan. Now Canaan is not a type of heaven but Canaan is a type of "rest" which the believer can enjoy in Jesus Christ but it can only be entered by faith.

Many of the Israelites under Moses failed to enter into Canaan because of unbelief therefore they died in the wilderness. The writer will explain to them there is a "rest" available now but it must be entered by faith. In other words they must not go back to Judaism but they must trust God and stay the course. If not they could be as those who under the leadership of Moses who never were able to enjoy the "rest" God had for them.

These are the 2 main thoughts as we enter into chapter 3 of Hebrews. That brings us back now to where we were last week.

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

Part 2

In Hebrews 3:1-4 the writer looks at the "position" which our Lord holds in reference to Israel. The writer is very careful as he enters into this subject so as not to offend the Jewish believers.

Notice Hebrews 3:1

Last week we saw how the writer pointed to their position in Christ and then he exhorted them to consider Jesus. The first word of this verse carries us back to all that was said about our Apostle and High Priest in chapter 2. Then at the end of the verse the name of Christ carries our minds forward to what the writer is about to say.

Notice Hebrews 3:2

Here in this verse the writer lays to truths side by side as he prepares to show how Jesus is superior to Moses. He points to the faithfulness of Jesus and how He walked in obedience to the Father. He then points to the faithfulness of Moses and then he says something different at the end in order to set the stage for what the point he desires to make.

He tells them that just as Jesus was faithful to the Father so Moses was faithful in all his "house".

Now last week I explained the "house" spoken of here is the Nation of Israel. This is very important to keep in mind as we continue.

Deuteronomy 6:22

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

Now as we move on to verse 3 the writer is going to go back to Jesus again.

Notice Hebrews 3:3

"This man" refers to Jesus. Here he tells them that that Jesus was counted worthy of more glory than Moses because the one who builds the house is worthy of more honor than the house itself.

Now let me explain what the writer is saying here. Moses was faithful in all of his house/the Nation of Israel. Jesus was faithful to the Father as He carried out the will of the Father. But Jesus was worthy of more honor than Moses because Moses was a part of the "house" but Jesus was the Builder of the "house". This means that Moses was faithful to God as he led the nation of Israel. But at the same time Moses was a "part" of the "house" or a part of the Nation of Israel. Jesus however exceeded Moses in honor because He was the One who builded the house/ Nation of Israel.

Last week I told you that Moses was a faithful steward in the household of God. There was entrusted to him the responsibility of being God's representative to the nation. He was faithful in that calling. But Jesus exceeded Moses because Jesus was the Creator of the Nation of Israel.

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² *The same was in the beginning with God.*

³ *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

John tells us that all things were created by our Lord. That, by the way, makes Him equal with God. That is exactly what we see in the next verse.

Notice Hebrews 3:4

The writer here points to the deity of Jesus Christ. Every house has to have been built by some man but it is God that has built all things. Therefore, Jesus being the Builder of Israel is God.

We find the beginning of the Nation of Israel in Genesis 12.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

*² And **I will make of thee a great nation**, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

So in Hebrews 3:1-4 we see that Jesus is superior to Moses in His position because Moses was a part of the House of Israel but Jesus was the Builder of the House of Israel.

II. Jesus is Superior in His Person

Notice Hebrews 3:5

This verse here is very interesting and there is much to see within this verse. We are told 2 things about Moses here:

1. He was a **servant** in his house. Again the word "house" is referring to Israel. He did not own the house, he did not build the house, and he was not in control of the house. He was simply a servant in the house. God had chosen him to lead Israel he did that which God had called him to do. He was faithful. We will look at this again in a moment.
2. Secondly we are told that Moses was **a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after.**

Now we must ask, "What does this mean when we are told he was a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after?" It means that Moses was a shadow or an Old Testament type/picture of that which was to come, or to be more detailed Moses was an Old Testament picture of Jesus Christ. Let me show you some of the ways in which Moses was a shadow of Jesus Christ.

1. **Moses was under a death sentence by Pharaoh.**

Exodus 1:15-16

¹⁵ *And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah:*

¹⁶ *And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live.*

Satan was behind Pharaoh's order because he desired to kill the promised Messiah.

In the same way Jesus was hated and despised by the King Herod.

Matthew 2:16

¹⁶ *Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.*

2. **Moses gave up great wealth to be the deliverer of Israel.**

Hebrews 11:24-25a

²⁴ *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;*

²⁵ *Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God,*

In the same way Jesus chose to leave the riches of heaven and to come here and endure the cross.

3. **Moses delivered the people of Israel from slavery and bondage.**

The same can also be said of Jesus Christ.

John 8:34, 36

³⁴ *Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

³⁶ *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

These are only 3 points but there are so many more points that would help us to see that Moses was a shadow of Jesus Christ.

Let me get you back to the thought again. In Hebrews 3:5 the writer tells us that Moses was a "servant" in all his house.

Notice Hebrews 3:6a

Here we see the contrast between Jesus and Moses. Moses was a servant in the house but Jesus is a Son. Therefore in His Person Jesus is superior to Moses. There is a lot of difference between a servant and a son. A servant serves the master of the house but a son, through his father owns the house. That is the very idea which the writer has here. The Jewish believers had lifted up and exalted Moses and Moses deserved honor. But Moses, even in all of his faithfulness, could not be exalted above Jesus because Moses was a servant and Jesus was the Son.

John 8:35

³⁵ *And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.*

Notice Hebrews 3:6b

Now we need to pay close attention to this verse. The writer tells his readers that Jesus is a Son over HIS OWN HOUSE and they were a part of that house. What house is the writer talking about here?

Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹ *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

²⁰ *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

²¹ *In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:*

²² *In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

Paul tells his the Ephesians that they are members of the household of God which is the church. They were built upon the foundation of the Apostles and the prophets. So the house of Jesus Christ is the church. Not the building but the people. The writer of Hebrews tells his readers they now belong to the house of Jesus Christ which is the church. I need to point out something very important. The house of Jesus Christ is **not** the same as the house of Moses. The house of Moses is Israel and the house of Jesus is the church. There is a clear distinction in these verses.

Conclusion:

Notice Hebrews 3:6 again.

The writer tells them that they are of the house of Jesus, meaning they are of the church/body of Christ IF they hold fast to the hope firm unto the end. This does not mean if they turned back to Judaism they would lose their salvation. The idea is that if they were to walk away from Jesus they were never saved to begin with.

There are many verses which have the same contain the very same thought.

John 8:30-31

³⁰ *As he spake these words, many believed on him.*

³¹ *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed:*

1 John 2:19

¹⁹ *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*

The writer of Hebrews wanted them to do a self examination to be sure they were saved. This is a reminder to everyone here that one of the signs of salvation is steadfast faith. Someone who professes to be saved but turns their back on the Lord under pressure was never saved in the first place.

2 Corinthians 13:5

⁵ *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*