

# Jesus is Superior to Moses

Hebrews 3:1-6

Introduction:

- Last week we considered the humiliation of Christ
    - Becoming a man, lower than the angels
    - Suffering and dying for every man
    - He is the captain of our salvation
  - Chapter 3 begins by describing who believers are:
    - Holy brethren
    - Partakers of the heavenly calling
      - This is a book written primarily to Jewish believers, so this is a contrast
      - God's promises to Israel, beginning with the Abrahamic covenant and following in His additional covenants, were all earthly. The promises decreed a people, a land, and a kingdom (Gen 12, II Sam 7). God's promises to the Church, the body of Christ, are all heavenly (Eph 1:3, Phillipians 3:20)
      - The church of the Gentiles has a share in spiritual blessings and a spiritual salvation in heaven, while Israel is God's people on earth and will take part in earthly blessings
  - This chapter continues showing that the OT contains many spiritual meanings which point to the Superior Jesus- i.e. Moses
  - Luke 24:27 says, "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."
- I. Consider the Apostle
- a. We don't often apply this word to Jesus, but He is our Apostle. The ancient Greek word translated apostle means "sent one." The idea is something like an ambassador. In this sense, Jesus is the Father's ultimate ambassador (Hebrews

1:1-2). God the Father had to send a message of love that was so important, He sent it through Christ Jesus.

- b. God also chose His original, authoritative “ambassadors” for the church. These are what we think of as the original twelve apostles.
- c. God still chooses ambassadors in a less authoritative sense, and there is a sense in which we are all ambassadors for God. Yet surely, Jesus was and is the Father’s ultimate ambassador.
- d. This is the sense of Jesus fulfilling the office of Prophet- representing God to man

## II. Consider the High Priest

- a. Illustr- highway going different directions
- b. Jesus also represents us before the Father. God cares for us so much that He put the ultimate mediator, the ultimate High Priest, between Himself and sinful man.
- c. Jesus is the ambassador and the mediator of our faith. He is God’s Prophet, and our Priest! Christianity is a profession made with both the mouth and with the life (Matthew 10:32, Romans 10:9).

## III. Consider how Faithful Jesus is

- a. We have mentioned the importance of the prophets and angels. Jews also had high regard for Moses. Moses' name is mentioned 848 times in the Bible - 768 times in the Old Testament, and 80 times in the New Testament.
- b. To many people, Moses represents Judaism. Often in Scripture, the law is referred to as "the law of Moses."
- c. John 1:17 says, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."
- d. V. 2- House here does not just mean the tabernacle- Moses laid the foundation of Israel's theocracy. Moses was in charge of building the tabernacle, with all its furnishings.
- e. Moses was a great servant in the house, but Christ is the builder. John 1:3 says, "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." Jesus is greater because He is God

- f. Jesus also builds the church (Matt 16:18)
- g. V. 6- Whose house we are: 1 Peter 2:4-5 says we are being built up a spiritual house. God has a work to build through His people, even as one might build a house.
- h. Moses showed an amazing faithfulness in his ministry; but Jesus showed a perfect faithfulness – surpassing even that of Moses.
- i. Moses received much glory from God. This is seen in his shining face after spending time with God (Exodus 34:29-35), in his justification before Miriam and Aaron (Numbers 12:6-8)- But Jesus received much more glory
- j. Here's why: Moses the servant, Jesus the Son
  - i. Moses was a member of the household of God but Jesus is the creator of that house, worthy of greater glory.
  - ii. Moses was a faithful servant, but he was never called a Son in the way Jesus is. Sonship means equality with God. This shows that Jesus is greater than Moses.
- k. "For a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after" (3:5) refers to the fact that Moses was in many ways a picture and type of Christ, but the antitype is always greater than the type. John 5:46
- l. Moses said in Deuteronomy 18:15, "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken."
- m. Christ is "like unto" Moses in many ways, but He is far greater than Moses.
  - i. Delivered Israel from Egypt, delivers the world from sin
  - ii. Other types and foreshadowings of Christ would include the manna from heaven, the Rock that was smitten, the brazen serpent, etc.
  - iii.
- n. When we consider the past faithfulness of Jesus, it makes us understand that He will continue to be faithful. And as He was faithful to God the Father (Him who appointed Him), so He will be faithful to us. This should bless and encourage us.

- o. "Semper Fidelis" motto of the Marines

Conclusion:

- V. 6- The writer to the Hebrews is encouraging those who felt like turning back, helping them to hold fast by explaining the benefits of continuing on with Jesus.
- "Since/If"- I John 2:19, 24- Apostasy. See v. 14
- William Newell wrote, "These warnings of Hebrews are not given to create uncertainty, but to avoid presumption and carelessness."
- Faithfulness doesn't make you a child of God it proves you're a child of God!
- True commitment to Jesus is demonstrated over the long term, not just in an initial burst. We trust that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).
- May we be faithful to Christ as He has been faithful to us. This is the only requirement to be a good servant in God's eyes- faithfulness, dependability, steadfastness
- Until that glorious day when we shall hear: "Well done!"

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,

There is no shadow of turning with Thee;

Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not

As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—

"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!