

Hebrews

Jesus is Greater than Moses

Hebrews 3:1-6

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INTRODUCTION:

As we learned last week the theme to the book of Hebrews is the supremacy of Christ. We should **consider Him**. He is better than the prophets in chapter 1. He is better than the angels in chapter 2. And now we are going to see that He is better than Moses.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Hebrews 3:1-6 (NASB95)

³ Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; ² He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. ³ For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. ⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; ⁶ but Christ *was faithful* as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

Prayer

In order to understand this passage, we have got to back up a little bit and find out what the Jews thought about Moses.

Why is it so important to prove that Jesus is better than Moses? The answer is, because the Jews esteemed Moses above any other Jew who ever lived. He was the man to whom God spoke mouth to mouth. He was a man who saw the glory of God.

Secondly, Moses was the one who gave the law. So Moses and the law were synonymous. Moses had not only brought the Ten Commandments, but he had penned the entire Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, which laid out all the Levitical laws and all the laws that governed everything they did.

God spoke to prophets in visions, but to Moses He spoke mouth to mouth. He spoke to him in a burning bush. He spoke to him out of heaven. He spoke to him on Sinai and wrote the commandments with the finger of fire. God spoke directly to Moses and transferred His glory to him.

And certainly, his history was remarkable. The hand of God preserved him as a baby, and the hand of God dug his grave at the finish. And between these two points of his life, there is nothing but miracle after miracle after miracle. It was Moses who led the children of Israel out of Egypt. It was Moses who led them through the wilderness. It was Moses who

instructed them from the mouth of God. It was Moses, Moses, Moses. And so to the Jew, there was no one like Moses.

And as great as Moses was, the Holy Spirit in this section calls on us to gaze on Jesus, who is **far** greater than Moses. And that is the consideration right here for you and the Jewish readers this morning. If you think Moses is great, consider Jesus.

Now, in order for the Holy Spirit to present evidence to support the superiority, the supremacy, and the sufficiency of Christ, he selects a three-fold presentation. And this will be our outline. He says that Jesus is **superior in His office, superior in His work, and superior in His person.**

BODY:

I. Jesus is Superior to Moses in His Office.

First of all, the Holy Spirit says **Jesus is superior to Moses in His office.**

Hebrews 3:1 (NASB95)

3 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;

Consider Jesus. The author of Hebrews is writing to the true Jewish believers in this verse and it also applies to us as well. **Consider Jesus.**

Then he gives Jesus his two titles. And this is where we are going to see his office. He calls him the "**apostle and high priest of our confession**".

First of all, he calls him the apostle. This is the first way that Jesus is better than Moses. Jesus was both an apostle and a high priest. Moses was not. At best Moses was an apostle. Who was the high priest? Aaron. So in this sense, Jesus is superior in his office because he had both titles, Moses had only one. *Apostolos* means sent from God. In the Greek, it would refer to an ambassador. And Jesus is the supreme ambassador of God, sent to earth. He is the "sent one" from God.

And what are the characteristics of an apostle or an ambassador? Well, number one, he has all the right and all the power and all the authority of the king in the country who sends him, and so did Jesus. He came clothed with the power of God. He came with all of God's grace, all of God's love, all of God's mercy, all of God's justice, and all of God's power.

Secondly, an ambassador has to speak with the voice of the one who sent him. And that is what Jesus claimed.

John 12:49 (NASB95)

49 For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.

So Jesus was the **perfect** "sent one" from God. He came with all of God's power, and He spoke with God's voice. But beyond that, He was always the high priest of our profession.

Now, we're **not** going to spend much time on the high-priest concept, because we will be covering that later in Hebrews. For now, I will introduce you to the word "**priest**". In the

Latin is the word *pontifex*, which broken into two words, means "**bridge-builder**". Jesus was the one who built the bridge and connected God and man. And so Jesus is not only the "sent one" from God, with all God's power and speaking with God's voice, but He is also the one who takes man and God and brings them together. He's the bridge-builder and the bridge.

Then it says that He is the apostle and high priest of our profession. That means that Jesus is the one we confess. So if you profess that Christ is your Lord, then you certainly ought to gaze on Him, right? That is what He is saying to the believing Jews and to us. If you have received Christ and you have confessed Him as an apostle and your new high priest then you should gaze on Him intently.

How many of us as Christians have confessed Jesus Christ as savior and Lord and still run through our whole lives looking only at ourselves instead of looking at Him? So in His **office**, He's greater than Moses.

II. Jesus is Superior to Moses in His Work.

Secondly, **Jesus is superior to Moses in His works**. In Verses 2 through-4 the author makes a simple comparison of the work of Jesus with that of Moses, to show who is superior.

Hebrews 3:2-4 (NASB95)

² He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. ³ For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

Now, I want you to keep in mind that it is hard for us as gentiles to understand the affection with which the Jews regarded Moses, the man of God. He was a man who stood head and shoulders above all other men. In the mind of the Jews, Moses was the key to everything connected with God. So this subject is dealt with very delicately by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not fire out in verse 2, "Jesus is greater than Moses." He handles it more delicately.

Before taking up Jesus' superiority to Moses, He points out the similarities between the two. Jesus was faithful to God and so was Moses.

John 6:38-39 (NASB95)

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

And then the Holy Spirit says, "**as Moses also was in all His house**" You see, He points out the similarities first and says they were both faithful. The faithfulness of Moses is an indirect quote from Numbers 12:7.

Numbers 12:5-8 (NASB95)

⁵ Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the doorway of the tent, and He called Aaron and Miriam. When they had both come forward, ⁶ He said,

“Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream. ⁷ “Not so, with **My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My household;** ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, Even openly, and not in dark sayings, And he beholds the form of the Lord.

Moses was faithful. He carried faithfully God’s plan. He came out of in Egypt, into the wilderness. God refined him. It took 40 years for Moses to make something out of himself; 40 years for God to work with him, and then 40 years for God to use him. During the 40 years in the wilderness God made him the man he wanted him to be. Then he took the children of Israel out of the land.

One of his greatest feats was He believing God and leading the Israelites out of Egypt and arriving at the Red Sea.

I wonder if I could have believed that faithfully. If I got to the Red Sea and I heard someone say, “Wave a staff over the sea and the waters will part” I suspect that I would ask “Would you repeat that please?” But not Moses. He did as God said and led the children of Israel through the sea on dry ground.

But Moses was a man and there were times when he did fail. If you remember, he slew the Egyptian in Egypt. He also smote the rock instead of speaking to the rock as commanded by God. But Moses, for the most part, was faithful. And so here the Holy Spirit emphasizes similarity, so as not to turn off the Jewish audience.

Then you will notice that it says he was faithful in “**all his house**”.

What house is the author talking about?

Well the Greek word is *oikos*, it means household, Moses was a faithful steward in God’s household. The “household” was God’s people and the proselytes that converted to Judaism. They were Old Testament believers. Moses was faithful in God’s household.

Being faithful in God’s household is the same as being a steward.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NASB95)

4 Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found **trustworthy.**

A steward is somebody who does not own the house, but manages it for the owner. God owns the house of Israel. Moses was faithfully in charge of leading the people. He was in charge of passing along the words God committed to his trust.

Then it says in verse 2 that Christ also was also faithful to His house.

Who is Christ’s household? Let me read how Paul described it to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:19 (NASB95)

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,

God’s household is the church. We are the new household and Jesus is the one who cares for us. So as the believers of the Old Testament are called “**The house of Moses,**” the believers of the New Testament are called “**The house of Christ.**” And as Moses was

faithful to an earthly household, Jesus was faithful to a heavenly household. As Moses was faithful to the house God gave him, Jesus was also faithful to the house that God gave Him. And Jesus could say at the end of His life, "Father, I have finished the work which you gave me to do. I have told the house all that you instructed me to tell them." He was faithful.

Then comes the difference in verse 3.

Hebrews 3:3 (NASB95)

³ For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house.

Moses was faithful, but he is a piece of the house. Jesus made the house. That is the difference. Jesus created Israel. All things were made by him.

John 1:3 (NASB95)

³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Moses is only a member of the whole spiritual household which Jesus himself built. Jesus created Israel; Jesus created the church.

Listen to verse 4.

Hebrews 3:4 (NASB95)

⁴ For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is - what?- God.

So who is Jesus?

He is God. He created everything. Thus He is greater than Moses. Moses is just part of the house that Jesus built. So you see, to hang on to the rituals of Judaism does not make any sense, because the one who is greater than Moses has arrived.

III. Jesus is Superior to Moses in His Person.

Thirdly, we see that **Jesus is superior to Moses in His Person.**

Hebrews 3:5-6a (NASB95)

⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; ⁶ but Christ *was faithful* as a Son over His house—whose house we are...

Here is the climax to the comparison between Jesus and Moses.

First you see that Moses was, as a person, a servant; Jesus is by person a son. Did you get that? There is a lot of difference between a servant and a son. Listen to John 8:25.

John 8:35 (NASB95)

³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.

In other words, there is a certain ranking for the son. Servants come and go; sons are sons for life. And so that is a major difference.

"Moses was faithful in all His house as a - what? – “as a servant.” He was a faithful, obedient, ministering, caring servant, and he was a good steward of God.

But Moses was not the end of the line. That is what Judaism does not understand. Moses was only faithful as a testimony to those things which were yet to occur. Judaism without Christ is not the whole story. It is the shadow without the substance. And so Moses was a servant, but only as a shadow for what was coming.

Hebrews 10:1-4 (NASB95)

10 For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. ² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? ³ But in those *sacrifices* there is a reminder of sins year by year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

The law could not permanently cleanse us of our sins. It was a shadow of the perfect One that was to come. If you reject the perfect, the shadow does not mean anything.

Moses was only a servant. But Jesus was a Son. Not over another's house, but over His own house. And we are the Lord's house.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NASB95)

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Moses was servant in somebody else's house. Jesus is a son over His own house. Now, do you see that in His person, He is greater than Moses? A servant compared to a son.

CONCLUSION:

Now, the Lord knows that we need a guarantee about that. So he closes out this verse with a guarantee that we are the spiritual house. How do we know this? How can we be sure that we are really His house? Verse 6b.

Hebrews 3:6b (NASB95)

...if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

Are you considering Jesus? Is your faith real? Are you, like Moses, being a faithful servant? The scriptures warn us that we must be for real. We are to examine ourselves against the scriptures to see if we are truly saved.

Consider Jesus. Learn to live your whole life with your sights on Him. He is all you need.

What A Day That Will Be.