

HEBREWS
CHRIST IS SUPERIOR TO MOSES
By Ron Harvey

Text: Hebrews 3:2-6

INTRODUCTION

Since most of us don't have a Jewish background, and we were never ingrained in the rites and ceremonies of the Mosaic law, it seems hardly necessary to prove that Jesus is superior than Moses. We know that intuitively. We were never part of that system that so honored Moses. Moses was that great prophet that brought Israel out of Egypt. He was that great prophet that received the law from God and gave it to Israel. He was that great prophet who led them to the promised land. His name was synonymous with the law. It is called the law of Moses. Though it was actually the law of God, his name was so associated with it that they called it the law of Moses. Even Jesus called it the law of Moses.

And it was very hard to disassociate early Jewish Christians from that old system called Judaism.

But when Christ came, Judaism, whose chief feature was the law, gave way to Christianity, whose chief feature was grace. All of the rites and ceremonies of Judaism were fulfilled in Christ. And therefore, the rites and ceremonies gave way.

Our passage here in Hebrews will draw a comparison between Moses and Christ. And it will be seen that Christ is superior in all ways.

For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses (v.3)

Remember that the book of Hebrews shows that Christ is superior to the whole system of Judaism. And we have seen so far that he is better than the prophets and that he is better than the angels. Now we will see that he is better than Moses.

Now in order to show that Christ is superior it is necessary to compare Christ and Moses. And this is what the next few verses do. They compare. Now there will be points of similarity and points of contrast.

We see first a similarity between Moses and Christ.

Both Moses and Christ were faithful

You will see in verse two that Moses and Christ were similar in that both were faithful.

Moses was faithful in his appointed service. God called Moses to perform a very difficult task. He was to lead Israel out of Egypt. And God spoke to Moses and called him to this task. And you know the story that Moses went down into Egypt and he spoke to Pharaoh the words of God. And he led Israel out of Egypt. And God gave Moses the law and Moses spoke the law to the people. And Moses led the people through the trials of the wilderness. And Moses was faithful in his stewardship over the household of God. (See v.5) (Also, see Numbers 12:7)

Likewise, Jesus was faithful in his appointed service. Jesus said,

“Lo, I come to do thy will, O God.” (Heb.10)

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.
John 12:49

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

John 17,4

Needless to say, Jesus was faithful in his appointed service.

So, both Moses and Jesus were accounted faithful. Now we know that Jesus was perfectly faithful in all things and that Moses was only generally faithful. Moses had his deficiencies. But that is not developed in this Hebrews passage. The writer of Hebrews simply points out that both Moses and Jesus were faithful in their realms of stewardship.

Who (Jesus) was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. (v.2)

But Jesus was worthy of more glory because,

Moses was a part of the house and Jesus built the house (v.3)

Now Moses was given a certain stewardship by God. God appointed Moses to labor within that realm of stewardship. Specifically, Moses had work to do in the house of Israel. The work of Moses was confined to that house.

And I want you to notice very carefully that Moses was “in” that house. (v.5)

Although Moses was assigned work to do in the house of Israel, it is clear that Moses himself was a part of that house. He was one of the bricks in the house of Israel. He was a very notable brick, but only one of the bricks after all. There was Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and Joseph and Moses and Joshua and many other bricks that made up the house of Israel. And Moses was only one part of that house.

And the question is, “What is the relationship of Jesus to that house?” And it is true that Jesus was in that house. Jesus was born into that Jewish house. Jesus was a physical descendant of Abraham. And so, like Moses, Jesus was in the house.

But there is a very important distinction between Moses and Jesus. And that is found in verse 6 where it says that Jesus was also over the house.

Now Jesus is over the house because he built the house. (v.3) The one who builds the house has more honor than the ones who are merely part of the house. And therefore, there is a distinction between Moses and Jesus.

The writer of Hebrews says,

For every house is builded by some man, but he that built all things is God. (v.4)

Now what the writer says is that if you look out your window and you see a house, then that means that some man built it. The wind didn't simply blow bricks and mortar together and fashion a house. Rather, someone built it. That is the physical example that will help us illustrate a spiritual

truth.

If you see the house of Israel out there, if there is such a thing as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and Moses, and a great earthly nation who occupied the land of Canaan and who were the custodians of God's law, then someone built that house. Now Moses wasn't the builder. Moses was merely a part of that house. But God is the builder of all things and therefore it is apparent that God is the builder of the house of Israel. (v.4) And Jesus is that very God who has built that house and who therefore owns it and is over it.

So, even though both Moses and Jesus were faithful in their stewardship, there is a great difference between them because Moses is only in the house of Israel, Jesus is over the house of Israel.

Example: Jesus demonstrated his authority over the house when he marched into the temple one day and he fashioned a whip and he went into the temple and he turned over the tables of the money changers and drove them out. Now he was saying, this is My Father's house and this is my house (speaking of the temple). And he exercised his authority over the temple. By implication, he was also claiming authority over the nation whose temple it was.

Example: In the Scriptures, Jesus is asserted to be the King of the Jews. At his birth the wise men said they were come to see the King of the Jews. And before his death Jesus admitted that he was the King of the Jews.

And so, Jesus is over the house. He made it and he is the King of it. He has all authority over it. This cannot be said of Moses who was merely in it.

Now it was said in verse two that both Moses and Jesus were faithful in their appointments. And I want you to notice that these appointments are called houses. Moses had a certain stewardship over a house and Jesus had a certain stewardship over a house.

In verse 5 it says that Moses was faithful in his house. And in verse 6 Christ was faithful in his house. And it is fairly clear here that Moses' house was quite different and less glorious than Jesus' house.

You see, the household of Moses was an earthly household. It was the nation of Israel. And Moses was just a notable brick in that house. Jesus was actually the builder of that house.

But Moses' house was the nation of Israel. Moses' stewardship was concerning an earthly people. Moses was faithful in delivering them from an earthly oppressor – Pharaoh. He delivered them from an earthly place of bondage – Egypt. Moses delivered to the people a word of condemnation – the law. And the house of Moses was really a blueprint of that better house that Jesus would build.

Now Christ has his own house. (v.6) Moses had his house (Israel), but Christ has his own, different house. And what is his house?

But Christ as a Son over his own house; whose house are we . . .
(v.6)

Christ's house is made up of those who hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. This can mean none other than the spiritual elect of God. It is the true family of God.

And is this not the teaching of Peter when he says,

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house . . .
I Peter 2:5

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God.

I Peter 4:17

So, the house of God is here equated to those who obey the gospel of God.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. In whom all the building fitly framed together

growth unto a holy temple in the Lord. In whom you also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

Eph.2:19-22

And so, Moses' household was an earthly household, but Christ house is a spiritual household. Let's just compare the houses:

Moses' house was the nation of Israel.
Jesus' house is the Israel of God.

Moses' stewardship was concerning an earthly people. Moses' house was limited to people of one nation.
Christ's stewardship was concerning a spiritual people and his house extends to people of all nations.

Moses was faithful in delivering from an earthly oppressor – Pharaoh.
Christ delivered from a spiritual oppressor – Satan.

Moses delivered them from an earthly place of bondage – Egypt.
Christ delivered from spiritual bondage of sin.

Moses delivered to the people a word of condemnation – the law.
Christ delivered to his people a word of forgiveness and grace.

And so, it appears that the household of Christ is a bigger and a better house. And, it is a more honorable house.

But there are other distinctions between Moses and Jesus.

Moses was a servant in his house, Jesus was a Son over his house

The purpose of Moses' house was to serve as a witness (v.5)

And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after.

It was a testimony of future things.

This goes back to the first two verses of Hebrews where it says God

spake in time past through prophets but in these last days hath spoken unto us through his Son.

And Moses was a prophet in times past who spoke in sundry times and who spoke in bits and pieces. And Moses words were a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after.

In other words, the thing that characterized Moses' words was the fact that he was testifying of future things. Moses' stewardship was typological.

For the law having a shadow of good things to come . . .
Heb.10:1

And we are going to see in the book of Hebrews that this whole structure of the Mosaic system was typological. It was a shadowy picture of a greater reality that was coming in that greater prophet who was Christ. We are going to see in chapters 5-10 that these Mosaic institutions like the tabernacle, the priesthood and the various ceremonies were temporary and shadowy structures that pointed to the reality of the gospel.

And so it says in verse 5,

And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after.

But it is interesting about the Old Testament and about the period of Moses in particular, that even the historical events are for our instruction and they are typical of a future day. And therefore, the deliverance from Egypt, the wandering in the wilderness, the coming into a land of rest are historical events that foretell by God's providence of a spiritual reality.

How marvelous is our God who by his providence and by his control of human history, instructs us with historical examples. So the things that Moses did and the things that Moses said all pointed to Christ.

For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me.

John 5:46

Now the prophets of the Old Testament may have thought it was all about them, but it was really about Christ. Now those that were brought out of Egypt may have had only the Egyptian bondage in mind. They only cared about their troubles in the wilderness. They had their eyes on the land of Canaan. But Jesus said, "Moses wrote of me."

When the prophets wrote in the Old Testament, they had an immediate matter in view, but they really testified of Christ. (Acts 10:43)

Two men were traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus after the resurrection of Jesus and Jesus appeared to them and they couldn't figure out what all these things meant. And it says,

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:27

So the house of Moses was really a blueprint of that better house that Jesus would build. And the primary purpose of the house of Moses is found in Hebrews 3:5 where it says,

And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after.

A SUMMARY OF HEBREWS 3:1-6

1. Consider Christ so that you will never be tempted to depart from Him. (v.1)
2. Christ is the Apostle. He is the One who is sent from God with all authority and power.
3. Christ is our High Priest. We need someone to represent us before God. Christ is the one.
4. Christ was faithful in his stewardship over his house. He did the works of God and spoke the words of God and he completed his work faithfully.
5. He is superior to Moses. Christ has a better house. Christ's house is that spiritual house of which Moses house was a type. We are

Christ's house. The Israelites were Moses' house.

The practical admonition to those who are tempted to leave Christ and return to Moses (Judaism)

1. Hold Fast (verse 6)

Holding fast is the test of the reality of your faith.

Whose house we are, if we hold fast . . .

Jesus taught the same message.

If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples.

John 8:31

(See also, Heb.3:14; 4:14)

This doctrine is known as the perseverance of the saints. It means that all those who are truly saved, will hold fast. They will persevere to the end. And so, all those who are professing Christ are encouraged to hold fast – to hang in there. Don't let loose of Christ. Don't stop believing because if you quit, you will prove that you are not His.

Is anyone considering leaving Christ and going back to the Mosaic law? This would be a terrible mistake with eternal consequences. And so, the writer of Hebrews says "Hold fast."

2. Don't be like the Israelites who professed to believe in God but who proved they were reprobates in the wilderness. (vs.7-11)

3. Take heed. (v.12)

4. Exhort one another daily. (v.13)

Read I Corinthians 10:1-12