

## The Superiority of Christ "Better than Moses" Hebrews 3:1-6

### Introduction

The author wrote the book of Hebrews to a community of Jewish people located outside the Jerusalem area. Some people the apostles and prophets evangelized believed in Jesus. Some were intellectually convinced but not spiritually awakened. Others heard the gospel but were not convinced. The book of Hebrews addresses all three groups.

The believers who received Christ were persecuted relentlessly, put out of the synagogue, and ostracized from Jewish society. Their persecutors challenged their faith, tempting them to return to Old Testament rituals. In Galatians 5, Paul encouraged a similar group to "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."  
(Galatians 5:1 NKJV)

There was freedom in Christ in the New Covenant, but they had not begun to experience it. They were still struggling with legalism. The writer wants to strengthen their faith in Christ and show them they don't need to cling to the outward rituals of the Old Covenant because Christ is sufficient and has provided a better Covenant.

The writer also addresses a group of unbelievers who understood the truth but willfully rejected it. Hebrews 10:29 is a strong warning addressed to them, "Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?" (Hebrews 10:29 NKJV)

Then there were also Jews who were interested but not convinced of the truth of Christianity. Today we'll examine the writer's claim in Chapter 3 that Christ is better than Moses and the Law. To Jewish believers still hanging on to Judaism, he says, Christ is sufficient. To unbelievers considering Christianity, He says, "Please come and put your faith in Jesus. He is all you will ever need." To the unconvinced and unbelieving Jews, He boldly proclaims, "Christ is superior; He is supreme, and He is sufficient."

Christ and His new covenant are better than Moses and the Old Testament Jewish Covenant. In Chapter 1, we see that Jesus is better than the prophets, and in Chapter 2, He is better than the angels. Now we will see that Jesus is better than the one who descended the mountain with the terms of the covenant written on tablets of stone. Christ is better than Moses and the Law of the Ten Commandments.

Let's look at the first six verses of Chapter 3. Verse 7 is built on these verses, and we need to understand the premise, or we won't understand the exhortation. Verse 1 says, "Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house. For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God. And Moses indeed *was faithful* in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end." (Hebrews 3:1-6 NKJV)

We need to find out what the Jews believed about Moses to understand this passage. Moses was the measuring stick for every other Jewish leader. He held a place that was very unique in the mind of a Jew. God spoke to Moses face to face. He saw the glory of God, and he was the one who delivered the Law to the people.

Moses and the Law were synonymous in the minds of the people. The Old Testament commandments and rituals were a Jewish priority. Some Jews even believed that Moses was greater than angels. God spoke to the prophets in visions, but He spoke face to face to Moses. Yet, as great as Moses was, the writer calls us to consider that Jesus is far superior to Moses.

The Holy Spirit presents evidence to support the superiority and supremacy of Christ. He says that Jesus is superior in His Mission, His Ministry, and as God's Messenger. Jesus is superior in office as our apostle and high priest. Jesus is superior in His work as the builder of God's house. Jesus is superior as a Messenger since He is the Son of God.

## **I. Superior in His Mission.**

First, the Holy Spirit presents Jesus as superior to Moses in His office as the Lawgiver. Verse 1 says, "Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus." (Hebrews 3:1 NKJV)

Chapter 3 starts with the challenge to consider Jesus. That's precisely what I'd like you to do today. The first word, "Therefore," refers back to Chapters One and Two and builds upon them. Those chapters tell us that Christ is greater than the prophets and greater than the angels. In Chapter 3, the writer wants us to consider that Jesus is also greater than Moses and the Law.

The writer wants believing Christian Jews who were looking at Jesus out of one eye but back at Judaism out of the other eye to focus on the absolute sufficiency of Jesus. Consider Jesus. You don't need to look anywhere else.

Since most of us haven't come out of Judaism, we may not understand how difficult the temptation was to hang on to old traditions. It's tough to make that break.

Though we may not relate to Judaism, sometimes we find ourselves lured into believing that our religious background and training is superior to all others. But God expects more than rituals and acknowledgment of His laws. He expects us to receive Jesus and His gift of faith. He wants our relationship with him to be filled with love and grace, as well as obedience and devotion.

When we accept God's salvation through Christ, we are set free from any artificial kind of legalism. By faith, we live a positive Christ-controlled, Spirit-energized life. Christ's superiority shatters all legalistic efforts. When you receive Christ, you are made a partaker of His holiness. Hebrews 10:14 says, "For by one offering, He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." ([Hebrews 10:14 NKJV](#))

According to the Discovery Bible, the word "sanctified" is *hágios*, "holy") – to regard as special (sacred), i.e., as holy ("set apart"); sanctify. Verse 17 then adds, "THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE." Now where there is remission of these, *there is* no longer an offering for sin." ([Hebrews 10:17-18 NKJV](#))

The Apostle Paul says in Philippians Chapter 3, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." ([Philippians 3:20 NKJV](#))

We are heavenly citizens, and we have access right now to heavenly blessings and benefits. Since we met Jesus Christ, we don't belong to this world anymore. Why would you build your life on earthly rituals when you have the heavenly reality. The rituals and pictures of the Old Testament pictures are no longer required.

Wherever you are, you can worship God. Jesus calls upon us to worship the Father in Spirit and in "what," "in truth." Not in ritual. We share in the righteous nature of Christ and His heavenly calling. So the Hebrew writer says to these unsure Jewish people, "Consider Jesus!" Don't rely on rituals to save you; put your trust in Jesus. Allow Jesus to become a part of your daily lives.

Hebrews Chapter 12 verse 1 says, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." ([Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV](#))

Looking unto Jesus." If you're going to run the Christian race, keep your eyes on Jesus. He is the prize of the high calling. Just look at Him. Drop everything else. Just focus on Him. He is the apostle and high priest of our profession.

Jesus is better than Moses because Jesus is both apostle and high priest; Moses was not. At best, Moses was an apostle. But who was the high priest? Aaron. Jesus is superior because He is both prophet and priest.

"Apostolos" means sent from God. In the Greek, it would refer to an ambassador. That would make Jesus the supreme ambassador sent by God. An ambassador enjoys all the rights, powers, and authority of the country that sends Him. Jesus came clothed with the power of God. He came with all of God's grace and all of God's love, and all of God's mercy, and all of God's justice, and all of God's power. And Christ is superior to all who have been sent before Him, including Moses and the Law, because He is the one who originated the Law. He is the One who called Moses at the burning bush. He is the one who guided Moses and Israel through the wilderness. Jesus is not only God's greatest Ambassador, He is God come down in human flesh.

Jesus is the apostle and high priest of our profession. If you have received Christ and confessed Him as the apostle and high priest of your life, you are eligible for all of His blessings and provision. If you look to the Law and ritualism to save you, you will fall short.

Jesus is better than Moses and the Law, and He is better than tradition and ritual. He wants us to experience a relationship with Him, and He wants to give us divine joy and guidance for our life. Jesus Christ is better than Moses, and He is all you need to succeed spiritually.

## **II. Superior in His Ministry and Message**

Secondly, Jesus is superior in His ministry and message. Verses 2 to 4 say that Jesus "was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house. For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is God*." ([Hebrews 3:2-4 NKJV](#))

Moses was a great man of God. Everything connected with God in the Jews' minds was connected with Moses. Numbers 12:7 says, "My servant Moses is faithful in all mine house." Moses was faithful. He faithfully carried out God's plan. He faithfully led Israel out of Egypt through the wilderness and to the Promised Land. Moses was a faithful steward of God's household. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, "Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found" what? - Faithful! ([1 Corinthians 4:2 NKJV](#))

A steward doesn't own the house; he manages it for the owner. God owns the house of Israel; Moses was just in charge of management. But it also says in verse 2 that Christ also was faithful to His house. What household? Ephesians 2:19, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." ([Ephesians 2:19 NKJV](#))

Paul teaches the New Covenant household of God is the church. In 1 Peter 2:4, he says, "Ye also as living stones are built up a spiritual house." The believers of the Old Testament are called the house of Moses, but 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. Moses and Jesus were both faithful. But verse 3 says, "For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God." (Hebrews 3:3-4 NKJV)

Jesus was counted worthy of more glory than Moses. Why? Because the One who builds the house has more honor than the house. Moses was faithful, but he's a part of the household. But Jesus made the house. That's the difference.

Jesus created everything. John 1:3 says, "All things were made by Him. And without Him was not anything made that was made." Moses is a member of the spiritual household which Jesus built. Jesus created the house of Israel, but Jesus also created the Church. Verse 4, "For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God." (Hebrews 3:4 NKJV)

The distinction is just that clear. Moses is part of the house Jesus made. To hang on to the forms of Judaism doesn't make any sense because the One who is greater than Moses is here.

And finally, Christ as God's greatest Messenger is superior to that of Moses.

### III. Superior as His Messenger

Look at verses 5 and 6. "And Moses indeed *was* faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end." (Hebrews 3:5-6 NKJV)

Moses was a servant of God, but Jesus is the Son of God. In John 8:35, it says that a servant does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. Servants come and go, but the Son is heir for life. Moses was exalted, but Jesus is highly exalted. To compare Jesus with the best of men only emphasizes His greatness. To compare Jesus to the worst of men proves nothing.

Many in Judaism can't see that Moses wasn't God's final revelation. Judaism without Christ and the New Testament is a shadow without substance. Moses was only a shadow of what was coming. Hebrews 10:1, "For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect." (Hebrews 10:1 NKJV)

The law can't save you. It was a shadow of the perfect One who would save us! If you reject the authentic solution, the shadow doesn't mean anything. The Old Testament Covenant was just a shadow. Jesus said in John 5:46, "**For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.**" (John 5:46 NKJV)

In Luke 24:27, when Jesus meets up with the two on the road to Emmaus, it says, " And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." (Luke 24:27 NKJV)

In Acts 3:22, on the day of Pentecost, Peter says to the crowd, "For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN. HIM YOU SHALL HEAR IN ALL THINGS, WHATEVER HE SAYS TO YOU. AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERY SOUL WHO WILL NOT HEAR THAT PROPHET SHALL BE UTTERLY DESTROYED FROM AMONG THE PEOPLE.'" (Acts 3:22-23 NKJV)

Peter goes on to say, "and Jesus Christ is that prophet." Moses points to Jesus and says that Christ is that prophet. And he confirms it on the Mount of Transfiguration! But Jesus is more than a prophet and more than a faithful servant. Verse 6 says, "but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end." (Hebrews 3:6 NKJV)

The building we are worshipping in is not the House of God! How many of you know we are the Lord's house. Ephesians 2:22 says, "in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:22 NKJV)

We are the Lord's house. Moses was a servant in God's house, but Jesus is the Son over His own house.

## Conclusion

It would be a thrilling compensation for those Christian Jews who lost their standing among the house of Israel to know they're a part of God's eternal spiritual house. The promise is guaranteed. We are the spiritual house if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

Continuance is the proof of reality. Members of the household don't visit the house of God; they live in the house of God. Some people have a profession of faith but not a possession of faith. If under the pressure of persecution you renege on your commitment, Calvinists say, "all you have is a superficial confidence which proves you never were in His house, in the first place. Armenians would say, "What a tragic mistake to come so far in faith and not persevere to the end." Either way – the result is the same!

1 John 2:19 says, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us." (1 John 2:19 NKJV)

Hebrews 10:38 says, "NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM." But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul." (Hebrews 10:38-39 NKJV)

What's He saying to us? Be real. Be authentic. Check up on yourself. Are you really in the faith? Don't fake it! Be one of those who continues with confidence. Fix your eyes on Jesus. Receive His abundance of faith. Commit your life to following Him and become complete in Him.