

### Christ is Superior to Moses

#### Hebrews 3:1-6

Hebrews 3:1-6 - *Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,<sup>2</sup> who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.<sup>5</sup> And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward,<sup>6</sup> 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.*

#### Background Notes

In Hebrews 1 and 2 the author went to great lengths to point out that the Lord Jesus Christ is greater than the Old Testament prophets, and He is greater than the angels. We might think it strange that the author would spend so much time on a truth that is no problem for us. If someone were to ask us if Jesus is greater than the prophets and greater than the angels, we would say, "Of course He is! Why would you even ask such a question?"

The reason this subject was important is that the author was addressing a primarily Jewish audience. In Jewish thought, the Old Testament prophets and the holy angels were held in very high esteem - and rightly so!

The prophets were God's spokesmen – and many of them wrote Scripture. The very fact that the Jewish people considered the writings of the Old Testament prophets as sacred **Scriptures** (even though these same writings pronounced judgment on the people for their sin) shows that the Jewish people had a very high regard for the Old Testament prophets.

The angels, of course, are powerful and lofty creatures, not bound by the frailties of mankind. Jesus was a Man who suffered and died. So, to the Jewish mind, how could He be greater than the lofty holy angels? So the writer of Hebrews took the time to show conclusively that Christ is superior to the Old Testament prophets and superior to the angels.

There was one more point the author had to make to the Jewish readers before he could move on to the great theme of the epistle, the High Priesthood of Christ. That point is that **Christ is superior to Moses**.

To the Jewish mind, Moses was the greatest of all the prophets. In Exodus 33:11 the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, just as someone would speak with a friend. And remember what God said of Moses in Numbers 12:6-8: "*Then He said,*

*Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. <sup>7</sup> Not so with My servant Moses; he is faithful in all My house. <sup>8</sup> I speak with him face to face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?"*

So Moses was a major figure to the Jewish people. In fact, in some inter-Testamental Jewish writings Moses was considered to be greater than the angels. So the author of Hebrews placed his argument about Moses after his argument about the angels.

## **Doctrinal Point**

### **Christ is superior to Moses.**

Three sub-points were made in support of this doctrinal point.

#### ***a. Christ is superior to Moses because Christ is the apostle and High Priest of our confession.***

Verse 1: *"Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus."*

Notice how believers are addressed - and this certainly applies to us today as well. We are *"holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling."* We are **brethren** because we have been brought into the family of God. We are **holy brethren** because, through the righteousness of Jesus Christ, that is our position before a Holy God. The Lord Jesus has cleansed us from our sins. And we have a **heavenly calling**, because this present world is not our home. Our eternal home is with the Lord.

Now *"consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus."* As the Apostle, Christ was the one who was sent forth from God to represent God to us. Jesus Christ - not Moses - represents God to us, as to our confession of faith. We are no longer under the old covenant. We now have a Christian confession of faith.

As our High Priest, Jesus Christ - not Moses - represents us before God. Moses wasn't even an Old Testament high priest, let alone the high priest of our Christian confession of faith. So Christ is superior to Moses because He is the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.

***b. Christ is superior to Moses because Christ is the builder of all things.***

Verses 2-4: *who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.* <sup>3</sup> *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.*

<sup>4</sup> *For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.*

The argument of this is as follows: Moses was faithful in reference to “God’s house,” and Christ is faithful in reference to “God’s house.” The “house” here for Moses was not just the Tabernacle, but the whole household of the redeemed. The household of faith for Moses under the Old Covenant was Israel. The house of God, or household of faith for Christ and the New Covenant, is the Church.

Both Moses and Christ were faithful in respect to the house of God, but the glory of Christ is far superior to that of Moses for an obvious reason: the builder of a house clearly has more “honor” than the house itself. Moses was certainly faithful in regard to the house of the redeemed in the Old Testament, but Moses did not build the house of Israel; God did! Moses was part of God’s house, but he was not the builder of the house.

But Christ is the builder of God’s house, the Church. Christ is not a living stone in the Church, He’s the **Head** of the Church. He’s the One who builds the living stones into the Church. He’s the builder of God’s house because He is God. In fact, as God, He’s the builder of everything! Verse 4: *“For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.”*

It seems that the deity of Christ is the primary point of this Scripture. As God, Jesus Christ created everything. He is clearly superior to Moses because He is the builder of all things.

***c. Christ is superior to Moses because Christ is the Son over His own house.***

Verses 5-6: *And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward,* <sup>6</sup> *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.*

Do you see the obvious argument in these verses? Moses was faithful as a **servant** in God’s house - but Christ is faithful as the **Son** over God’s house! Clearly Christ is superior to Moses as a Son over His own house.

Furthermore, the service of Moses was only temporary. It pointed forward as a testimony of what would come in the future with the coming of Christ. In other words, the things associated with the house of Israel were a type (or picture) of

future realities of Christ and the redeemed. Hebrews 9:24: *“For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”*

Any way you look at it, Jesus Christ is clearly superior to Moses.

## Practical Application

### Let the “ifs” of scripture motivate you, not scare you.

Verse 6: *“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.”*

Does the “if” of this verse bother you? Does it scare you? If this were the only verse in the Bible that discussed my salvation and eternal destiny, I think I would be scared! But it’s **not** the only verse in the Bible that deals with salvation.

In John 10:28 the Lord said that He gives His sheep eternal life, and they will never perish. When the Lord said *“never perish,”* He meant **never perish!** So - once a sheep, always a sheep! Once you’re one of the Good Shepherd’s sheep, you’re in His flock forever.

How do you know if you’re one of His sheep? People can pretend they’re sheep or think they’re sheep or look like sheep, even though they’re not really in the flock. How can we know for sure?

Verse 6 is the answer – *“if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”* Notice - it doesn’t say *“whose house we **become** if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”* We don’t become believers or get into the house by “holding fast.” The Bible is teaching here is that a true believer perseveres. A true believer will hold firmly to the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope - firm to the end.

Are you persevering and holding fast in the faith - or are you a “Palm Sunday follower”? The “Palm Sunday people” looked like they were true followers of Christ. They welcomed Him into the city with cheers and song and even Scripture - but where were they a few days later?

So the question is - are you persevering and holding fast in the faith? If you’re not, you may not yet be a true believer. True faith perseveres. Let the “ifs” of scripture motivate you, **not scare you!**