

JESUS SUPERIOR TO MOSES

HEB 3:1-6

“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.” NASB

The book of Hebrews was written to Christians of Hebrew descent. Its purpose was to show the superiority of Jesus and prepare them for the complete destruction Jerusalem and the Jewish system they so wanted to hold onto. This is evident through out the scriptures as teachers went out teaching the Gentiles that they had to be circumcised to be saved, “And some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.’” Acts 15:1 NASB. Paul also had to deal with this problem in the churches of Galatia in Gal. 5:1-5. The writer of Hebrews sets out to show that Jesus is superior to Moses in chapter 3. Moses the great Lawgiver, how could anyone be greater than Moses must have been hard for the Jews to comprehend.

The author starts by asking them to consider “Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession” who like Moses was faithful “to Him who appointed Him.” So if they are both faithful what is the big deal? He makes his point in verse 3 and that is, Jesus is counted “worthy” of more glory than Moses as a builder has more honor than the house he has built. He then tells them that the builder of all things is God. Look at what John says in his gospel vs. 1:3, “All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” NASB. John speaking of Jesus clearly states that “nothing” came into being without him. So as the builder of all things Jesus has more glory than Moses.

The author then continues with a comparison between that of a “servant” and a “son.” In Jewish society the chief servant was who took the orders from the head of the household. He would then take those orders and deliver them to the rest of the servants. He would then be responsible for seeing to it that everything was done IAW the instructions that he had received. On the other hand when the eldest son came of age the responsibility of the day to day operations would be put upon his shoulder. It would become his responsibility to give the orders. The chief servant never acted on his own but always under the oversight of the one who was in charge. He was never the originator of the orders he gave. The eldest son would have the “authority” to give the orders. In Jesus’ case this would be what He tells us in Matt 28:18 “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” We find no such scripture concerning Moses. Thus the Hebrew has stated a principle that was clear to the Jewish mind when he stated, “faithful in all His house as a servant” verses “faithful as a Son over His house.”

The house spoken of in these passages is the people of God, “whose house we are.” When speaking of the people of God today, we are speaking of the church which belongs to

Jesus. "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock **I will build My church;** and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it." Matthew 16:18 NASB. If the church is the household of God the Father, "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of **God's household,**" Ephesians 2:19 NASB, and it is. Then we need to listen to the eldest Son who has been made the head of the church which is His body, "And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." Ephesians 1:22-23 NASB. In the end we as servants of the household need to listen to and do as the Son has told us.

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