

TEXT- Hebrews 3:

INTRO- This is the third argument for the superiority of Christ. He is better than the prophets, better than the angels and now the writer states that He is better than Moses. Moses was the great hero of the Jewish nation, and for Paul to prove Christ's superiority over Moses was the same as proving the superiority of the Christian faith over Judaism. How could these people go back to Judaism when what Christ offered was so much greater than what Moses could offer? It is interesting to observe that many times people are tempted to go back to their old ways.

I. Christ Is Greater in His Office 3:1-2

- Moses was primarily a prophet Deu. 18:15-19
- He also exercised the functions of a priest Psa 99:6
- And a king Deu 33:4-7

Moses was called of God - while Christ was sent by God.

Christ is the "Apostle" or "The Sent One" **Joh 3:17** *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.* **John 17:21, 23, 25**

- Christ is also the High Priest, an office that Moses never occupied. Christ's ministry has to do with the "heavenly calling" and not only the earthly calling of Israel.

Moses ministered to an earthly people whose calling and promises were primarily earthly; - Christ is the Apostle and High Priest of a heavenly people who are strangers and pilgrims on this earth.

Moses was a prophet of law, while Christ is the Apostle of grace. **John 1:17** *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*

- Moses sinned, while Christ lived a sinless life.

Heb 3:1 *Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*

II. Christ Is Greater in His Ministry Heb 3:3-6

God states that Moses was faithful **Num 12:7** as was Christ **Heb 3:2**

Contrast their ministries:

Moses was a servant; Christ is the Son.

Moses served in the house, while Christ is Lord over the house.

"The house" means, the household of God, not the temple or the tabernacle.

Moses was a servant in Israel, God's OT household;

Christ is a Son over God's household, which, today, is the church **Heb 3:6**

Heb 10:21 *And having an high priest over the house of God;*

1 Pe 2:5 *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. God's household is always marked by faith.*

People in OT times were saved by faith just as people are today. It is this continuity of faith that tied together the people of God under both covenants. This is why Gal 3:7 calls true believers "children of Abraham," for he is the "father of the believing."

A. Moses was a servant while Christ is the Son.

This statement suggests that the OT ministry was one of bondage and servitude, while Christ's ministry under the New Covenant is one of liberty.

- The OT Law is termed "a yoke of bondage" **Gal 2:4; Gal 5:1**

B. Moses ministered using symbols, while Christ is the fulfillment of these things.

Heb 3:5 — *"those things which were to be spoken after...."*

"In Christ we have the true light shining; in Moses, we are in the shadows."
To go back to Judaism meant to exchange fulfillment for types and shadows!

III. Christ Is Greater in the Rest He Gives Heb 3:7-19

The nation of Israel as an illustration of spiritual truth **1 Co 10:1-13**

The Jews were in bondage in Egypt, just as sinners are in bondage in the world.

God redeemed Israel by the blood of the lamb, just as He redeems us through the blood of Christ.

God promised the Jews a land of blessing, and He has promised to His own a life of blessing, a spiritual inheritance in Christ.

But this blessing could come only to those who separated themselves from the world and followed God by faith. So, God took Israel through the Red Sea (separation from Egypt, the world) and led them to the border of Canaan.

Deu 1:2 informs us that this was an eleven-day journey. But at this point, Israel rebelled in unbelief and refused to believe God (**Num 14:1-45**). Because of this, God judged the entire congregation, excepting Joshua and Caleb, who trusted God and opposed the vote of the people. The Jews had to wander in the wilderness for forty years, a year for each day the spies were in the land. The nation did not enter into the promised rest (**Deu 12:9**; see **Jos 1:13-15**).

It is here that the writer warns his readers. They had been redeemed by the blood of Christ and set free from the world. Now, like Israel, they had been tempted to go back. To do so meant not entering into the life of fullness and blessing that God had promised them.

There are, in Heb 3:1-19 and Heb 4:1-16, three different rests:

(1) The rest of salvation **Heb 4:3, Heb 4:10;**

Lord Kenneth Clark, internationally known for his television series *Civilization*, lived and died without faith in Jesus Christ. He admitted in his autobiography that while visiting a beautiful church he had what he believed to be an overwhelming religious experience. "My whole being," Clark wrote, "was irradiated by a kind of heavenly joy far more intense than anything I had known before." But the "gloom of grace," as he described it, created a problem. If he allowed himself to be influenced by it, he knew he would have to change, his family might think he had lost his mind, and maybe that intense joy would prove to be an illusion. So he concluded, "I was too deeply embedded in the world to change course."

(2) The rest of victory in the midst of trials, Heb 4:11;

(3) The future eternal rest, the heavenly rest Heb 4:9.

The exhortation here is for the people of God to trust Him in spite of difficulties. It is that present rest that we have even in the midst of trials and testings'. This rest neither Moses nor Joshua could give.

Psa 95:8-11 *Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.*

The basic theme of Hebrews: Let us go on to maturity, overcoming the enemy and claiming our inheritance in Christ. Let us cross Jordan (die to the old life, and claim the present inheritance God has planned for us

Eph 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

It is one thing to trust God for salvation, and quite another to surrender our wills and lives to Him. Many Christians are still "wandering in the wilderness" of defeat and unbelief; they have been delivered from Egypt, but they have never crossed into Canaan to claim their inheritance in Christ.

The Jews were bought by the blood and covered by the cloud, yet most of them died in the wilderness! It is a matter of losing one's life of victory and blessing.

What causes this evil heart of unbelief?

(1) Not hearing God's voice, **Heb 3:7** and **Heb 3:15**; and

(2) allowing ourselves to be deceived by sin, **Heb 3:13**.

How important it is to **hear the Word of God!** If we fail here, we then start to **drift from the Word Heb 2:1-4** and then **doubt the Word Heb 3:18-19**.

We refuse the exhortations of those who want to help us **Heb 3:13** and go on in stubborn disobedience until **we become dull toward the Word** (5:11-6:20).

CONCL –