

GAZE ON JESUS

C. Stephen David | Ekklesia Evangelical Fellowship | October 23, 2022

Scripture: Hebrews 3:1-6 [The author continues speaking about Christ's supremacy—the argument from greater to lesser, from angels to Moses]

- ❖ ¹Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ² who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. ³ For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴ (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶ but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

1. THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST OVER MOSES

Who was Moses? Moses was the greatest and most revered man among the Hebrews [Jews].

1. Moses was the greatest Deliverer of Israel from the bondage of Egypt

- ❖ **Exodus 14:30-31**, Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

2. Moses was the greatest Prophet of Israel

- ❖ **Numbers 12:6-8**, And he said, “Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”
- ❖ **Deuteronomy 34:10-12**, And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

3. Moses was the Lawgiver to Israel

- ❖ **Nehemiah 9:14**, And you made known to them your holy Sabbath and commanded them commandments and statutes and a law by Moses your servant.

4. Moses was the Man of great Character in Israel

- ❖ **Numbers 12:3**, Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.

Matthew Henry about Moses: He that was a lamb in his own cause, was a lion in the cause of God.

Remember: It was the Lord who **delivered Israel** through Moses. It was the Lord who chose Moses to be **His prophet**. It was the Lord who **gave the Law** to Moses. It was the Lord who did **great signs and wonders** through Moses. It was the Lord who **shaped the character** of Moses. Blessed be His Name!

Observation: Now imagine how the Hebrews revered Moses. With this in mind, let us consider the superiority of Christ over Moses (after speaking about Christ's superiority over prophets and angels).

A. Jesus' Supreme Calling than Moses

- ❖ **Hebrews 3:** ¹Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider **Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession**, ² **who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house.**

Christ is the apostle [appears only once here]: One sent on a mission

Christ is the high priest: The mediator and reconciler between God and man

- As an apostle, Christ came from God to people. As a high priest, He represented people to God.

The role of Christ being the high priest is mentioned so far in all three chapters:

- ❖ **Hebrews 1:3**, After making **purification for sins**, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
- ❖ **Hebrews 2:17**, Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a **merciful and faithful high priest** in the service of God, **to make propitiation for the sins of the people.**
- ❖ **Hebrews 3:1**, consider Jesus, the apostle and **high priest** of our confession,

The Lord’s testimony about Moses in Numbers 12:7, “He is faithful in all my house.”

Faithfulness has three qualities:

- a. **Immediate obedience** to the divine call
- b. **Consistent carrying out** the divine responsibility
- c. **Faithful completion** of the divine commission

Moses faithfully delivered Israel from the bondage of Egypt	Jesus faithfully delivered us from the bondage of sin through His atonement on the cross
Moses faithfully led Israel through the wilderness	Jesus faithfully leads us through trials and temptations
Moses faithfully brought Israel to the frontiers of the promised land	Jesus faithfully returns to take us to His eternal home

B. Jesus’ Surpassing Glory to Moses

❖ **Hebrews 3:** ³ For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses— as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. ⁴ (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)

v.4, Jesus is the builder of a house

v.5, God is the builder of all things



No distinction made between the Father and the Son as a builder.

v.4, Moses built the house

❖ **Matthew 16:18,** I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

C. Jesus’ Superior Identity to Moses

❖ **Hebrews 3:** ⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶ but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son.

Moses: A faithful servant in all God’s house [Israel], to testify to the things that were to be spoken later...

❖ **Deuteronomy 18:15,** The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—

- ❖ **Acts 3:22-23**, Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’
- ❖ **John 5:46**, “If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me”.

Jesus: A faithful Son over God’s house [church], fulfilled the testimony of Moses

- ❖ **Hebrews 1:1-4**, Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days **he has spoken to us by his Son, whom [Son]** he appointed the heir of all things, through **whom [Son]** also he created the world. **He [Son]** is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and **he [Son]** upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, **he [Son]** sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

2. THE IDENTITY OF BELIEVERS IN CHRIST

- ❖ **Hebrews 3:1a**, Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling...

a) Holy brothers:

- **Children of God** (in relation to God, born of God), the greatest identity
- **Siblings of Christ** (in relation to Christ, “He is not ashamed to call them brothers” (2:11))
- **Brothers and sisters** (in relation to one another in Christ, literally those born from the same womb),

Holy—“set apart for God” (not in relation to personal achievement but in relation to Christ sanctifying His people by His atoning work on the cross)

b) You who share in a heavenly calling: Heirs of heaven

- ❖ **Hebrews 11:10**, For he was looking forward **to the city** that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
- ❖ **Hebrews 11:16**, But as it is, they desire a **better country**, that is, **a heavenly one**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them **a city**.

- ❖ **Hebrews 12:22**, But you have come to **Mount Zion** and to **the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem**, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering...

Note: It is Christ who made us partakers of the heavenly calling through His propitiation for our sins.

Illustration: Booked a flat and waiting for its handover.

c) God's house: "House" is used seven times in 3:2-6. It is a metaphor for God's people, in whom He dwells.

- ❖ **Hebrews 3:6**, And **we are his house**...
- ❖ **1 Peter 2:5**, you yourselves like living stones are **being built up as a spiritual house**...

Note: We are partakers of the heavenly calling and God's house **TOGETHER: A COMMUNITY OF DIGNITY**

- ❖ **Ephesians 2:19 confirms**, So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the **household of God**,

3. THE CALL OF BELIEVERS IN CHRIST

Hebrews 2v1 begins with "**THEREFORE** we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it."

- THIS IS SAID BASED ON **WHO CHRIST IS** IN HEBREWS 1.

Hebrews 3v1 begins with "**THEREFORE**, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, **consider Jesus**, the apostle and high priest of our confession..."

- THIS IS SAID BASED ON **WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE** IN HEBREWS 2:5-18 [The whole passage is indicative with no single mandate]
- The author has provided further grounds in this chapter—apostle, high priest, superior to Moses in calling, glory, and identity.

Now the call, mandate: Because of **who Christ is** and **our identity in Him**, the **call to believers** is to:

Consider Jesus: Pay careful attention to, keep your utmost focus on, fix your thoughts, deep contemplation

Note: This gazing on Christ is based on biblical revelation, not personal feelings, people's opinions, and cultural dictations.

Illustration from Matthew 14:28-31, And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. **But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink** he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

- ▶ Amidst the **pain, loss, sickness, and suffering**, gaze on Christ Jesus.
- ▶ Amidst the **temptations to sin and allurements of the world**, gaze on Christ Jesus.
- ▶ Amidst the **spiritual activities**, gaze on Christ Jesus.
- ▶ Amidst the **daily busy activities**, gaze on Christ Jesus.
- ▶ Amidst the **hostile cultural pressures**, gaze on Christ Jesus.
- ▶ Amidst the **false doctrines**, gaze on Christ Jesus.
- ▶ Amidst learning **sound doctrines**, gaze on Christ Jesus.

Observation about Christ’s Sovereignty in Hebrews 2:16, For surely it is not angels that he helps, but **he helps the offspring of Abraham** (Jews and Gentiles through faith in Christ).

- **“Help”**: Taking hold of His followers (until we attain glory)—“He will hold me fast”

Observation about believers’ responsibility in Hebrews 3:6, And we are his house, if indeed we **HOLD FAST our confidence and our boasting in our hope**.

Fact: Believers’ perseverance in Christ arises from Christ’s perseverance of believers.

Confession: “consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession”

- ▶ Confession of who Christ is (Son of God, Supreme, Lord, King, High Priest, Eternal Life)

Confidence: Internal assurance of who Christ is and what we are and have in Him

Boasting in our hope: External proclamation (particularly sharing in a heavenly calling)

Note: An invitation to unbelievers. Do you have this confidence and hope?

- ❖ **Hebrews 3:6**, And we are his house, **IF indeed** we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

- ❖ **Colossians 1:22-23**, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **IF indeed** you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard...

Loss-of-salvation view by David Pawson [author and bible teacher], “Does that mean that Christians could lose their salvation and be lost eternally if they go on doing these things, if they go on in their former life after they are a Christian? Yes, I am afraid it does.”

Easy believism view by Charles Stanley [pastor, author, bible teacher]: “Even if a believer for all practical purposes becomes an unbeliever, his salvation is not in jeopardy”. “And last, believers who lose or abandon their faith will retain their salvation, for God remains faithful”.

Test-of-genuineness view by S Lewis Johnson [theologian and pastor]: “If you continue in the faith grounded and settled,” why are these “ifs” in the Bible?... There are many people who, even over the years, make a profession of faith but who fall away, who evidence they were not really true believers... And with reference to the saints, it helps them to remember that God's warnings and admonitions are often means for the preservation of us by causing us to be more diligent in our Christian activity.”

The clause “if” is not used to cast suspicion on losing salvation, but to encourage believers to persevere in faith.

- ❖ **2 Timothy 4:7-8**, **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Summary:

- Christ Jesus is superior to Moses in His calling, glory, and identity.
- We are God’s holy children, brothers and sisters, partakers of the holy calling, and God’s house.
- Let us gaze on Christ Jesus and fight against the temptations in trials to fall away from Christ.

Illustration: After the Greeks fought and won over the Persians, a Greek soldier ran all the way, day and night, to Athens with the news. He ran straight to the magistrates and gasped, “Rejoice, we have conquered!” Then he dropped dead. He had completed his mission and done his work.