

Chapter Three - Greater Than Moses

Hebrews 3:1-19

Introduction: One of the great themes of Hebrews is the superiority of Jesus Christ. The word "better" is one of several significant words found in the book. One of the ways that Hebrews expresses the superiority of Jesus is by showing how He is better than others. The book begins by showing that Jesus is better than the prophets. Then it shows how He is better than the angels. Now in chapter 3 the book shows that He is better than Moses.

To understand why it was important to show that Jesus was better than Moses, you must understand how the Jewish people felt about Moses. He was revered as the greatest of all Hebrews, and esteemed the greatest man of history. He had led the children of Israel out of Egypt. By him the Law of God had been given to them. He was the writer of the Pentateuch. To them, not a greater man had ever lived. Let's consider the comparisons that are given and see how Jesus is better than Moses.

1. Christ Is Greater in His PERSON (Heb. 3:1-2)

That Christ is superior to Moses in His person is an obvious fact. Moses was a mere man, called to be a prophet and leader, while Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Moses, as great as he was, was but God's *servant*. But on the other hand, Jesus was God's *Son*.

Jesus Christ is the Apostle, but He is also the High Priest. In fact, Jesus Christ has the title "great High Priest" (Heb. 4:14). As the Apostle, Jesus represented God to men; and as the High Priest, He now represents men to God in heaven.

2. Christ Is Greater in His MINISTRY (Heb. 3:3-6)

The word "house" is used six times here. It refers to the people of God, not to a material building. Moses ministered to Israel, the people of God under the Old Covenant. Today, Christ ministers to His church, the people of God under the New Covenant ("whose house are we," Heb. 3:6). The contrast between Moses and Christ is clear: Moses was a servant in the house, while Jesus Christ is a Son over the house. Moses was a member of the household, but Jesus *built* the house!

3. Christ Is Greater in the VICTORY He Gives (Heb. 3:7-19)

This is the second of five warnings in Hebrews. In the first warning (Heb. 2:1-4), we saw the danger of *drifting* because of neglect. Here we see the danger of *doubting* and *disbelieving* the Word because of hardness of heart. It is important to understand the spiritual lessons in the geography of Israel's experiences. Egypt is a type of the world, the Wilderness wanderings represents our experiences when we doubt God's Word and live in restless unbelief, and Canaan is a type of the Victorious Christian Life.

There are, in ch. 3 and 4, three different rests, all of which are related in God's plan:

(1) **The Rest of Salvation** (4:3, 10); symbolized by the Sabbath, when Creation activities ceased. And that rest was God's "Sabbath rest," a rest still available, a rest of ceasing from futile works in an effort to earn God's favor.

(2) **The Rest of Victory** in the midst of trials, symbolized by Canaan (4:11); For the Christian, there is the day-to-day rest of dependence upon God for living the Christian life.

(3) **The Future Eternal Rest**, our Heavenly rest (4:9). All believers will enjoy this, "There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God" (Heb. 4:9). When we enter heaven, we will share God's great Sabbath rest, with all labors and battles ended (Rev. 14:13).

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