

Hebrews

Jesus is Superior to Moses

3:1-4:13

Both Jesus and Moses were faithful to God

- **Therefore**, holy brother and sisters, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession: Jesus;”
 - A link to chapter 2 that introduced Jesus as high priest
 - As Moses preceded Aaron in helping establish Israel as a people, Jesus was the leader of God’s New Testament people before He entered in to the duties of His priesthood

Both Jesus and Moses were faithful to God

- “Holy brethren”
 - Brothers of the flesh who are children of the same Father, separated from the world as a peculiar people
- “partakers of a heavenly calling”
 - Jesus partook of the flesh so that we might partake of Heaven (a call to salvation)
- “consider... Jesus”
 - Why would you quit Jesus for an earthly priest?

Both Jesus and Moses were faithful to God

- “the Apostle and High Priest of our confession”
 - A reminder that Christians have confessed that Jesus is the Son of the living God and that He is Lord
 - Our Jesus is also an **Apostle**
 - “one sent on a mission” – the mission of redemption of mankind
 - Our Jesus is also a **High Priest**
 - our representative in the presence of God – our mediator.
 - The writer will greatly expound on this idea later in the book

Both Jesus and Moses were faithful to God

- Just as God appointed Moses and Aaron, God also appointed Jesus
 - Jesus was not a "made being" but was appointed to His position from the beginning – He was a lamb slain from the foundation of the world whose appointment took place in the counsels of God before God ever created our universe.
- Moses was faithful, not perfect.
 - Jesus and Moses were concerned about all His house

Why Jesus is Superior to Moses

- Jesus is a builder of the House, Moses was but a part of that House.
 - 1) Jesus' rank was higher than Moses' since He was a builder and Moses was part of the house
 - Jesus, being a builder, IS God
 - Jesus had something to do with building the Old Testament people of God, because He Himself is God. He is the builder of all things

Why Jesus is Superior to Moses

- Moses was a faithful servant
 - 2) The Son is superior to the servant
 - Moses was indeed faithful, and was indeed honored, but he was still a SERVANT (Numbers 12:7)
 - Moses faithfully delivered the testimony of God, especially the testimony of the Messiah – things that were to follow his own day therefore by his own admission, Jesus was superior
 - Christ, used here for the first time, points to the Messianic tone of Moses testimony

Why Jesus is Superior to Moses

- Jesus is the CHRIST the Son of the living God.
 - As Messiah and Son, He occupies a position far superior to that of the servant Moses
 - Moses was *in* the house, Jesus is *over* the house
- “whose house we are”
 - Clearly Christian believers are members of God’s household
- “if we hold firmly to our confidence and the boast of our hope”
 - Just as clearly, this membership is conditional

A second warning to the reader

- Having shown why Jesus is superior to Moses, the writer now warns about falling away
 - The writer reminds us of God's disappointment and fury from the times the Jews provoked and tested God by quoting Psalm 95:8-11
 - The crux of this warning is a lack of belief. If we waver in our belief we are no better than that generation of Jews with whom the Lord was disgusted, and our fate will be no different.
- Is it wise, Hebrew readers to anger God by rejecting His Son?

A second warning to the reader

- "Take care"
 - Heed God's word constantly
- "Encourage"
 - Daily, habitual encourager of our brethren – "Today"
- "keep the beginning of our commitment firm until the end"
 - a conditionally qualified partnership with Christ in order to partake in Him

Warnings and Exhortations concerning the promised rest

- “Therefore”
 - What follows is based on the clear example of what happened to Israel of old
- “We must fear”
 - The fear of the consequence of apostacy
 - We must recognize the danger for what it is
- Once God decides to exclude you that decision is permanent

Warnings and Exhortations concerning the promised rest

- “For indeed”
 - The parallel between the Old Testament Israelites and Christians is close enough to understand that we don’t want that disaster
- We, like they, have received God’s word
- We, unlike they, must ACT on that word through **FAITH** – “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”

Warnings and Exhortations concerning the promised rest

- The rest promised – Conditionally
- The previous unfaithful generation did not fail to enter the rest because God had not yet prepared the rest.
 - God rested from creating on the seventh day, and ALL had been prepared.
- The rest is still available after the cross – conditionally – and God offers it “Today”

Warnings and Exhortations concerning the promised rest

- More than just the promised land was involved in what the older generations received, by way of Joshua, of God's rest.
 - If the promised land was "it" then David would not have used the word again.
- We are all working towards a "sabbath rest" – a by-God's-grace-through-His-Son given rest.
- That rest is final

Warnings and Exhortations concerning the promised rest

- A final exhortation to not give up but to focus our every effort on entering that rest.
 - Our goal should mirror God's that none should fall short of that "sabbath rest"
- The reason for diligence—
 - Threats, warnings, and promises found in the word
 - Living and active – scripture speaks in past and present
 - Sharper than any two edged sword – it cuts both ways – it can encourage and it can condemn
 - The word can distinguish between the person who lives in the realm of the spiritual and those who live only in the physical realm
 - The word passes judgment on men's hearts and motives

Warnings and Exhortations concerning the promised rest

- God is omniscient, omnipresent, and eternal
 - There is no where man can go to escape God
 - There is no where man can hide his deeds from God
 - There is nothing man does or thinks that God does not see
 - There is no man who will not answer to the Living God for his deeds in this life
 - EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

Next Week starts a new section

- The Superiority of the Son of God's priestly office
- Hebrews 4:14-7:28