

## 5. Understanding Why Christ Is Greater than Moses

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain why Christ delivers us as Christians from the fear of death. That fear is present in every person that is not a Christian but as Christians we have been set free. Since that promise is in the section of Scripture which shows that Christ is greater than angels, we see that it was due to the fact that Christ was greater than angels that He was able to set us free. Today, in our study, we are going to see that Christ is also greater than Moses.

In Hebrews 3:1-2, we read, “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house.” Chapter 2 concluded by reminding us that Christ is a merciful and faithful High Priest. Christ made reconciliation with God possible so that we can come to the Father with boldness. Christ is also able to help us when we are tempted. As a result, all those who come to Christ are called holy brethren. We have been set apart from sin and set apart to God.

We are also partakers of the heavenly calling. The word translated “partakers” means *a partner or one who shares in work or some other thing*. Here, we see that we share in a heavenly calling. Philippians 3:20-21 says, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” Since our citizenship is in heaven, we are able to focus our attention on heaven as we eagerly wait for Christ to come and take us to heaven and give us a new body like His glorious body.

The word “consider” means *to attentively fix our eyes or mind upon something*. Here, we see we are to focus our mind on the fact that Christ is the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. An apostle is one who is sent. Christ was sent by the Father to this world. The High Priest is the one who went into the Holy of Holies in the Old Testament once a year to take blood first as a covering for his own sins and then for the sins of the people. Since Christ was without sin, He has gone into heaven once for all and presented His blood to the Father which has taken away our sins.

Moses was a faithful servant of God because He delivered the people of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt and set them free from that bondage. However, Christ is greater than Moses because He has paid the penalty for sin and is able to deliver from the bondage of sin all who will come to Him. Christ said in John 5:45-47, “Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you--Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?” The Jews claimed that they trusted Moses but Christ said that Moses actually accused them of their sins because they did not believe what Moses wrote. However, Moses could not set them free from sin.

That is why Hebrews 3:3-4 says, “For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses,

inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God.” Here, we see that Christ was counted worthy of more glory than Moses. The word translated “counted worthy” means *that which is fitting or right*. Both Moses and Christ ministered to the family of the nation of Israel. Moses was and still is greatly honored by the Jews because of his ministry to the nation of Israel as he led them out of Egypt and through the wilderness.

These verses compare the nation of Israel to a house. Moses served the people of the house of Israel. However, Christ is the One who built the house of Israel and established it as a nation. 2 Samuel 7:12-13 says, “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” Then, Romans 11:26-27 promises, “And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’” Although God is presently blessing the church, God has not forgotten His promises to Israel. Christ will one day save and establish Israel as a righteous nation. As a result, Christ has more honor than Moses.

We are reminded that every house is built by someone. However, the One who built all things is God. Christ was the One who was the actual Creator. Colossians 1:14-17 says, “In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.” Christ is the Creator of all things. As a result, He is the builder of all things.

This is why Hebrews 3:5-6 says, “And Moses indeed *was* faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.” Moses deserves great honor because he was faithful and did exactly what God called him to do. He was a faithful servant of God. Joshua 1:2 says, “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.” God considered Moses a very faithful servant. However, the Son is much greater than even the most faithful servant.

In fact, the greatest way in which Moses showed His faithfulness was the fact that He spoke of Christ who would come many hundreds of years later. The writer of Hebrews spoke of that faithfulness when he wrote in Hebrews 11:24-27, “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.” Here, we see that Moses was faithful because he placed a greater value on being willing to suffer for Christ than he did on the value of all of the riches of Egypt. He did not fear the wrath of Pharaoh because He looked to

Christ even though he could not see him with his physical eyes.

Then, Hebrews 11:28 goes on to say, “By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.” The faith of Moses caused him to keep the Passover because He believed in the promise that Christ would come. 1 Corinthians 5:7 says, “Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.” Although Moses probably did not fully understand that Christ would be our Passover, He showed his faith by his obedience to God.

John 5:46-47 says, “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?” Christ spoke to Moses when He said in Exodus 3:14, “And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”” Christ made it clear to the Jewish religious leaders that He was the One who spoke to Moses when He said in John 8:58, “Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’” As Christ talked to Moses in Exodus Chapters 3 and 4, Christ promised that He would teach Moses what to say so that Moses could tell Aaron. Exodus 4:15 says, “Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do.” Christ promised to tell Moses what to speak and what to do. As a result, Christ is much greater than Moses.

We see that we become a part of the house of Christ when we place our faith in Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5 says, “Coming to Him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” Just as Moses was faithful as a servant, we are also to be faithful servants. 1 Peter 2:9 says, “But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” Here, we see that we are to proclaim the praises of the One who has called us.

The writer of Hebrews originally told the Jews that they were to hold fast to Christ with confidence and rejoicing of hope firm to the end. They were not to follow those Jews who were encouraging them to return to the sacrifices and ceremonies given in the book of Leviticus because Christ had fully provided salvation for them. They were to hold fast to that hope and confidence that had caused them to place their faith in Christ. In the same way, we want to help our physical and spiritual children to learn to walk by faith. 2 Corinthians 5:7 says, “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” We want to show our children by our own example what it means to walk by faith. Then, they will have an example to follow for their own lives. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children to understand why Christ is greater than Moses.