

A STUDY OF HEBREWS

Christ is Better Than Moses - Chapter 3:1-4:13

I. Review: Christ is the Greatest and Final Prophet (1:1-3)

A. Whereas every OT prophet carried piecemeal revelation from God as a mere human messenger, Christ brings the full and final revelation of God as the embodiment of the Message!

II. Review: Christ is Lord Over the Angels (1:4-14)

A. While angels helped mediate the OT law of God as God’s servants, Christ is the incarnate, ascended, exalted, supreme Lord and King, the Son of God who governs the universe after dying for sin.

III. THEREFORE...We must pay careful attention to the Gospel of Christ (2:1-18)

A. Since the message of Christ’s salvation is all the more full and clear, we ignore it to our own peril.

B. Those who doubt the legitimacy of a suffering Savior should know that this design was fitting for us, since the incarnate Christ can sympathize with us in our suffering even as He triumphs over it.

For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Heb 2:18)

II. Text: Hebrews 3:1-6 – Christ is Better Than Moses

Therefore, 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. (Heb 3:1-6)

1. What is an “apostle”? Have you ever thought of Jesus as an “apostle”?

“For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak... As the Father has sent (apostello) me, even so I am sending (apostello) you.” (John 12:49, 20:21)

*“Jesus, the Mediator, the sole Priest, Prophet, King, Savior, and Head of the Church, contains in Himself, by way of eminency, all the offices in His Church... **He is Apostle**, Teacher, Pastor, Minister, Bishop and the only Lawgiver in Zion.”*

- From the PCA’s *The Book of Church Order*, Preface.

2. How were Moses and Christ similar and different to one another? What was Moses task? What was his sphere of ministry in Bible history? What was Christ’s task? What was/is His sphere of ministry?

MOSES	CHRIST
People of God under foreign domination (Pharaoh)	People of God under foreign domination (Herod)
Deliverer born despite the evil ruler’s infanticide	Deliverer born despite the evil ruler’s infanticide
Flees from Egypt to wander for 40 years	Flees from Egypt to wander for 40 days
Undergoes water ordeal (Red Sea exodus)	Undergoes water ordeal (baptism)
Receives God’s law on a mountaintop (Sinai)	Interprets God’s law on a mountaintop (SOM)

III. Text: Hebrews 3:7-4:13 – Therefore...Persevere!

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,

"Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, ⁹ where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. ¹⁰ Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, "They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways."

¹¹ As I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest." [Ps 95:7-11]

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin... ¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷ And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

⁴ Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ² For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened...

Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." [Ps 95:7]

⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God... ¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Heb 3:7-4:13)

1. What is the author of Hebrews remembering from Israel’s history? What did those Israelites fail to do (v. 19)?

“...the people quarreled with Moses and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ And Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?’ ...‘How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have heard the grumbings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against me. ²⁸ Say to them, “As I live, declares the LORD, what you have said in my hearing I will do to you: ²⁹ your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness...”” (Ex 17:2, Num 17:27-29)

2. Did Joshua lead Israel into rest in the land? What does Hebrews say about that rest in 4:8-9?

WHAT’S GOING ON?	Israel wandering in the wilderness (Ex 17, Num 14)	Israel wandering in their faith under David (Ps 95)	Christians wandering in their faith in Christ (Heb 3)
WHO TO WHOM?	Moses to Israel	David to Israel	Hebrews to Christians
THE THREAT?	Not entering Canaan	Not entering NH/NE	Not entering NH/NE
THE COMMAND?	Don’t grumble, but believe God’s promises	Don’t waver in faith, but believe God’s promises	Don’t fall from Christ, but believe God’s promises

3. How are the Israelites a lesson for us in finishing the Christian life well? What does the author say is integral to finishing well?

4. According to Heb 4:12, what role will the Word of God play on the last day?

“The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” (John 6:63)

“The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.” (John 12:48)

“Let us therefore strive to enter that rest...” (4:11)