

Setting The Stage

This letter/document/exposition to the Hebrew converts-to-Christianity is very different from all the other content of the New Testament. It is an effort to explain that Jesus is the fulfillment of all of God's promises in the Old Testament and of their worship practices, and that He is the central figure to Salvation. The Jews are not wrong in their beliefs; it is just that life is different now because Jesus arrived! Jesus is the Christ; He is the promised Messiah.

Moses Was A Servant; Jesus Is The Son

Who was "the Law" named for? _____

They had a lot of special remembrance celebrations. What was/is the really big one? _____

And, who led the Exodus from Egypt? _____

Who met God to receive the Ten Commandments? _____

Who wrote the first 5 books of the Bible? _____

Moses, Isaiah, and David were the BIG names in Hebrew history.

There is a lot of "meat" in the opening of Chapter 3. Please read **verse 1**.

Hebrews is the only book in the New Testament that explicitly develops the theme of Jesus as the "Great High Priest."

What is it that we "brethren" share? Go back to **Hebrews 2:11**.

What is the "heavenly call?" Read **Philippians 3:14**.

Interestingly, "Christ" is a title; it is not Jesus' last name. If anything, he would have been called "Jesus ben Joseph" ("Jesus, son of Joseph"). Technically we probably should refer to Him now as "Jesus, The Christ."

Last week Steve Spangler talked about the need for an intercessor. Here, the author of Hebrews refers to Jesus as the "high priest of our confession." He reiterates the point later in Hebrews 10:21.

²¹ *and since we have a great priest over the house of God,*

The author now makes the point that while great works are to be admired, the creator of those great works should be admired even more. Read **Hebrews 3:2-4**.

So, how much more should we admire God's work in creating us?! Read **Ephesians 2:10**.

YOU are a great wonder of God's craftsmanship!! And, He created you for good works. When God created you, He had a mission in mind for you. But, to be on God's "team," you must have a good relationship with the "coach." A right relationship with God IS righteousness! And that can only come after your salvation. So, salvation is the whole point of this!

Moses' and Jesus' statuses are different to God. Read **Hebrews 3:5-6**.

This is confirmed in Numbers 12:7.

⁷ Not so with my servant Moses; he is entrusted with all my house.

We know Moses did not want the assignment God gave him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt; he even argued with God about it, but, in the end, he acceded to God's will and did a masterful job of it. Moses showed unbelievable restraint in dealing with the pettiness of the people and their debauchery when he was absent (like, when he went up the mountain to get the 10 Commandments), despite his own stress and fatigue.

"House" here means more than a dwelling. It refers to family relationships, like "the house of David." If Moses is entrusted with God's whole "house," how much more authority must Christ have?

And, what/where is God's "house," or temple? Read **1 Corinthians 3:16**.

Christ's Rest Is Superior to that of Moses & Joshua

For an introduction, read **Hebrews 3:7-11**.

This is a quote from Psalms 95. Which test in the wilderness was this?

Unfaithfulness Can Exclude You From Christ's Rest

The Author admonishes the people to stay strong in their faith: you are now a new person, with a new nature; get rid of the old! Read **Hebrews 3:12-14**.

“Today” means now; this is a limited-time offer. “Untimely obedience is no substitute for timely or immediate obedience. Getting to the right place too late does not fix the situation.”¹

Paul uses the same perspective in his letter, **Ephesians 4:22-24**.

Despite the fact that we have so much in common in Christ, many will not listen, many will be rebellious, many will not enjoy the promised rest. Read **Hebrews 3:15-19**.

This lack of rest, due to disobedience, is the same consequence that Moses pronounced towards the end of the Israelites’ 40-year journey in the wilderness. Read **Numbers 14:29-30a**.

Summary:

- As Dr. Spangler pointed out last week, Christ is superior, as a person, to Moses, and even to the angels.
- The peace of Christ is promised to the faithful, but not so to the unfaithful. So be strong in your faith. Without obedience, it is impossible to please God.
- The whole point of this is that you have a God-given purpose/mission, but to be effective, you must have a right relationship with God, and that only comes through the salvation of Christ.

References:

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6. Free on-line commentaries:

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¹ Evans, p. 96.