

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 1ST–2ND, 2025 // HEBREWS

SUPERIOR TO MOSES (HEBREWS 3:1–6) JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO...

This chapter continues the theme of Jesus being superior: first, above prophets and angels, and now above the great Jewish leader and author of the Torah, Moses.

- To the Jews, there was no greater leader or example than Moses.

SUPERIOR BECAUSE HE FULFILLED GOD'S PLAN

We are to "consider Jesus" the "High Priest" (leader) of a divine plan to restore humanity. He is God's representative, or the "Apostle" who completes God's mission.

- V. 1 says we share in this "heavenly calling," meaning we are recipients and participants in God's work on Earth.

JESUS AS THE PERFECT EXAMPLE

Jesus is not only the perfect revelation of God, but also the perfect example of how to respond to God.

Jesus displayed the nature of God, and how we should respond to God in times of hardship and confusion.

- Like Moses was faithful with "God's household," Israel, Jesus is faithful to all mankind.

JESUS IS THE BUILDER OF GOD'S HOUSE

The first two verses show similarity to Jesus and Moses. Verse 3 presents a contrast.

- Moses led the "house of Israel," of which he himself was a part. Jesus is the Creator of all people, including the "house of Israel." The point is **the builder of the house is greater than the house itself.**

WHEN RESPECT TURNS TO IDOLATRY

The Jews had taken respect for Moses to an unhealthy level. **Though we are to respect people in authority, we must understand where authority comes from; God!**

- The world is idolatrous, but **we must balance respect with realistic expectations and remember biblical hierarchical structure.**

SUPERIOR IN HIS SACRIFICE AND LEADERSHIP

Moses was a great leader, but Jesus is superior because He willingly lowered Himself from heaven to serve His creation. **Moses gave a revelation of God, but Jesus is the revelation of God.**

- **Good leadership displays Kingdom principles and points all credit to Jesus.**

CHRIST AS A SECOND MOSES?

Many Jews saw Jesus as a second Moses, but the author wanted to make it clear Jesus was far superior to Moses.

- Jesus is God's Son, not just a good leader. Sonship carries greater responsibility. Jesus also stood over God's house (the people of God), but Moses was in God's house.

THOSE DARN CONDITIONAL PROMISES

V. 6 is a conditional promise. We get to be a part of God's House **IF** we "**hold on to our confidence and the hope**" of our faith.

- **We prove the genuineness of our profession of faith by our endurance and commitment to the principles and commands of Jesus Christ (we live it).**

REBELLION (HEBREWS 3:7–11)

LEARNING FROM HISTORY

The author wants us to examine the actions and consequences of the Jews' liberation from Egypt and learn from their mistakes.

- The Exodus is used as a metaphor for moving away from sin and slavery. **We are not to go back to "Egypt" or take salvation and freedom for granted.**

"THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYS"

Psalms 95:7–11, Exodus 17:1–7, and Numbers 14:20–38 are quoted to warn the reader about rebellion and complaining against God.

- The author mentions the "Holy Spirit." This shows us that **God Himself encourages us to learn from and not repeat the mistakes of the past.**

NEGLIGENCE LEADS TO HARDENING

If one rejects the instruction and call of God, their **consistent resistance will lead to habitual disobedience that will eventually lead to the judgment of God.**

- God is gracious, but **after consistent rejection, He gives one over to the mindset and heart they long for** (Romans 1:28).

WE HAVE AN EXAMPLE IN THE EXODUS

For forty years the liberated Jews were rebellious. God was patient, but they had become so entitled, selfish, and repetitiously rebellious that their hearts became hard.

- The recipients of Hebrews were decades away from their deliverance through the cross and some were growing cold.

"...THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN MY WAYS"

Ignorance to the ways of God isn't an excuse for disobedience. **If one seeks, they can easily find the path of God through His Word, Church, and personal conviction.**

- God swore **willing ignorance** and rebellion would negate people from entering into "[His] rest."

DOES GOD GET ANGRY? YES! (V. 11)

God's anger does not resemble human anger. God's anger is just, slow to arrive, and it is tempered with great love.

- God was angry during the Exodus because the Jews habitually disobeyed and did not care to learn God's ways (principles through the Word).

THE PROCESS OF BEING REFINED

The Jews had forgotten they'd been set free and they hated Moses for taking them through the wilderness to get to the Promised Land.

- If not careful, **Christians can fall into the same selfish and myopic mindset that despises the process that leads to a place of eternal rest and peace.**

HOLDING ON (HEBREWS 3:12–14)

CAN WE DEPART FROM JESUS?

The debate about vs. 12–13 is if they are talking about salvation or sanctification. Or, is the audience Christians or non-Christians?

- It is almost certain the audience is Believers, so the big question remains, can we choose to walk away from God?

THE EVIDENCE OF TRUE FAITH

We are instructed to demonstrate faith by enduring temptations and refusing to let sin and deception harden our hearts to God.

- Some people waste a lot of time arguing about losing salvation. **The focus should be that salvation is demonstrated by having a consistent relationship with Jesus.**

"BROTHERS" WASN'T ALL-INCLUSIVE

The author knew some recipients were not genuine in their faith. Each had to show their conversion by truly believing in and living out their faith.

- Some were nominal in their faith and were harboring sin, and **unrepentant sin leads to unbelief. UNREPENTANT SIN LEADS TO UNBELIEF?**

When we don't feel remorse for sin, don't take the commands of God seriously, or prefer the comforts of the world to the principles of the Word, we prove that we may know of Jesus, but we don't truly know and love Him (John 14:15).

- **True belief is shown in trusting, honoring, and following Jesus and His Word.**

SO, WHAT ARE WE TO DO? (V. 13)

First, we **encourage each other** through accountability, relationship, church, loving people, and being honest. Second, we **stay away from sinful things.** This prevents many temptations and helps shield from sin.

- **Sin is deceptive!** We think we can dabble, but sin's appetite is insatiable.

BACK TO THE QUESTION OF FALLING AWAY (V. 14)

Merely beginning the Christian life is not sufficient to assure completion. We must continue in our commitment to Jesus.

- **True "participants in Christ...hold firmly until the end." The passion we had at the beginning should mature and intensify as time passes.**

UNBELIEF (HEBREWS 3:15–19)

REEMPHASIZING THE POINT

Psalms 95 was so important to the author's point that it is used again in v. 15. Because of the Jews' rebellion after their deliverance and the miraculous Red Sea event, they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.

- The author wanted to make it clear; rebellion leads to unbelief.

THE ONES WHO ACTUALLY SAW GOD WORK!

"...who heard God and [still] rebelled?" It was the people God not only delivered from slavery but also showed miraculous signs to!

- We often say things like, "If I could see God, I'd believe," but apparently this is not always true. In God's process, **seeing is not believing, believing is seeing!**

UNREPENTANT SIN LEADS TO FAILURE

The consistent rebellion of the Exodus Jews prohibited them from seeing the Promised Land. God did fulfill His promise to their descendants, but the generation coming out of Egypt never received their reward.

- **Sin yields chaos in this life and eternal separation from God in eternity.**

"THEY WOULD NOT ENTER INTO HIS REST"

V. 18 is very relevant. The Exodus Jews did not enter a place of rest because of their sin.

- In an era of increasing and debilitating fear, anxiety, and depression, **maybe unaddressed sin or negligence of God's teachings plays a serious part in our culture's restlessness?**

THE LINK BETWEEN DISOBEDIENCE AND DISBELIEF

Disobedience to God's Word is a sign that one may know of Jesus but ultimately does not believe His ways are vital.

- **Our lifestyle demonstrates our true beliefs. If we are disobedient or negligent to Jesus, we show that we do not really believe God will keep His Word.**

CHRISTIAN ATHEISM

- "Christian Atheism" has two contrasting definitions. First, a Christian Atheist can be one who lives the principles of the Bible/Jesus but does not believe in a literal God (also called Death of God theology).

- Or, they can be **one who believes in a literal God/Jesus but does not live like He exists.**

WE OFTEN CALL THIS "NOMINAL" FAITH

A more familiar term for one who knows Jesus exists but does not live according to the teachings of the Bible or in a real relationship with Jesus is *nominal* Christianity. This means in *name only*.

HOW CONFIDENT ARE WE IN OUR FAITH?

- Do we believe in the biblical Jesus?
- Have we repented and live in repentance?
- Do we live as if the promises of the Bible and the ramifications of sin are certain?
- Do we pray? Do we read Scripture? Are we obedient to the commands of the Word and the Spirit's conviction?
- Are we being transformed more into the image of our Savior (sanctification)?
- Do we live in grace, not abuse of it (Romans 6)?
- Are we appreciative of His blessings even in bad times?
- Do we live in freedom and power, not in fear and anxiety (2 Timothy 1:7)?
- Do we display good works, not as a means of salvation, but as a response and evidence of saving faith (James 2)?
- Do we display the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5; Matthew 7:16) and the love of God (John 13)?
- Are we willing to endure trials and maintain biblical integrity until the end?