

# Hebrews: The Supremacy of Jesus

## Lesson 3:

### “Jesus’s Supremacy over Moses’s Law”

(Hebrews 3:1-19)

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# Outline

**Introduction:**

**Part One: Jesus is Superior to Moses's Law Because of His Sonship (3:1-6).**

**Part Two: Jesus's Covenant is Superior to Moses's Law Because of Hard-hearted Souls (3:7-19).**

**Discussion**

**Application**

# Introduction

- Last week, we discussed why we should listen to the words of Jesus and why his teachings really matter.
- This week, Hebrews continues with the importance we have as believers listening to Christ.
- Failing to live according to God's will brings disastrous results.
- Illus: "Judaizers vs. Antinomians: Two Ancient Heresies."
- Further Illus: "Grayson's Warning about Electricity: Boom, I Got You and I'm Not Letting Go."
- Sin is like an electrical current that grabs us and doesn't want to let us go.

# Things to Look For

- See how Jesus's identity makes him greater than Moses's law.
- Notice how God's salvific plan began at the very beginning of human history, even before then.
- Notice the dangers that comes from living in rebellion against God.
- Notice how important church attendance is for believers.





**PART ONE: JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO MOSES'S LAW  
BECAUSE OF HIS SONSHIP (3:1-6).**

# JESUS IS FAITHFUL TO GOD'S PLAN (3:1-2).

- **3:1** *Therefore* refers back to the previous chapter. Hebrews gives two descriptions of NT Christians.
  - 2 descriptions of NT Christians:
    - 1) They are *holy brothers and sisters*.
    - 2) They have a *heavenly calling*.
  - To *consider Jesus* (i.e., “fix your thoughts on Jesus”) calls on Christians to reflect on the significance that Jesus plays on their lives.
  - *Some want to claim that one should leave their religion at home. However, this is impossible for the Christian as Jesus has transformed his or her daily walk.*
  - By reflecting on Jesus, they would understand Jesus was both an *apostle* (i.e., God's perfect representation on earth) and a *high priest* (i.e., our representation before God). Jesus is the perfect advocate.
- **3:2** Jesus's position required him to be perfectly faithful, elevating his status in God's plan.

# JESUS IS THE BUILDER OF GOD'S PLACE (3:3-4).

- 3:3 Jesus is considered worthy of more glory than Moses. Why?
  - Illustration of a Builder and a House.
    - The builder has greater glory.
    - Moses played a role, but Jesus was the builder.
    - Moses should be honored, but Jesus should be worshiped.
- 3:4 builds on previous illustration showing that Moses played a role, but that Jesus is the builder.
- *God's covenants are not disconnected but part of God's larger salvific plan. 1<sup>st</sup> used Israel to reach nations. 2<sup>nd</sup> used church to reach the world. 3<sup>rd</sup> will once again use Israel to establish millennial reign. Part of the same plan.*

# JESUS IS THE RULER OF GOD'S PEOPLE (3:5-6).

- 3:5 brings up a distinction between a servant and a son (the son inherits the kingdom, but a servant does not).
- 3:6 gives two reasons why Jesus is superior to Moses.
  - 1) Jesus's faithfulness as a Son.
  - 2) Jesus was over God's household.
- We are in Jesus's household if:
  - 1) We hold to our *confidence* (hold to the trust we have in Jesus).
  - 2) We hold to our *hope* (joyfully look to the day when we obtain our heavenly reward).
- Evidence-to-inference condition.
- Story of Asbel Petrey



# Applications

- *God has had a plan to save souls since the very beginning. Moses was part of God's plan. Ultimately, Jesus is the culmination and the ultimate fulfillment of God's plan. We are part of his household.*
- *Let us faithfully serve him continuously, always holding to the hope and confidence that we have in Jesus. Faithful endurance is an indicator of a person's salvation. We remain faithful because of what God has done in our lives.*

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**PART TWO: JESUS'S COVENANT  
IS SUPERIOR TO MOSES'S LAW  
BECAUSE OF HARD-HEARTED  
SOULS (3:7-19).**



# PEOPLE WERE HARDENED TO GOD'S VOICE (3:7-11).

- 3:7-11 quotes Psalm 95:7b-11, comparing Israel's experience with a person's inclination to harden his/her heart towards God's voice.
- Three things stand out:
  - 1) *As the Holy Spirit says* shows that God is the author of the OT using human agents.
  - 2) *Today* applies the OT truths to the modern person's issues. We do the same with Scripture.
  - 3) *If* sets up a conditional *if...then* statement which finds its conclusion in the following verses.

# PEOPLE WERE HARDENED TO GOD'S VOICE (3:7-11).

- 3:8-9 gives the result of verse 7.
  - If you hear God's voice, then do not harden your hearts by rebelling against God.
  - *As in the day of rebellion* refers to the attitudes of the Hebrew people (Ex. 17:1-7; Num. 14:20-38).
  - *On the day of testing in the wilderness* points back to the wilderness wanderings, also showing that we may be tested.
  - *Fathers...tested and tried God* shows that God has a limit as to what he will allow before delivering justice and judgment.
  - *Forty years* references both the wilderness wanderings and perhaps the time that Hebrews was written, around 67 AD.



# PEOPLE WERE HARDENED TO GOD'S VOICE (3:7-11).

- 3:10-11 shows that God does become angry.
- The Hebrews provoked God's anger in two ways.
  - 1) They *always go astray in their hearts* which meant that they persistently strayed from God's commands.
  - 2) The Hebrews did not know God's ways, meaning that many (though not all) did not really have a relationship with God.
- *While we are under God's covenant of grace, we must understand that this does not mean that God will not become angry with us if we consistently refuse to obey his will.*

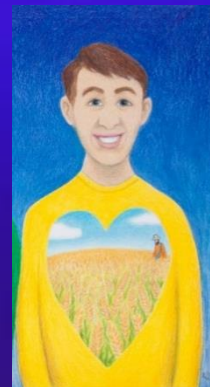
# PEOPLE WERE DECEIVED BY SIN (3:12-13).

- 3:12-13 poses a theological issue.
- Is Hebrews talking about sanctification (the process of being made into God's image) or salvation (someone turning away from one's salvation)?
  - *Brothers* indicates that Hebrews was written to believers.
  - Hebrews describes the process of sanctification, but two things must be noted.
    - 1) While sanctification is a work of God, we can impede the process by quenching the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19) which brings judgment upon the believer.
    - 2) Not everyone who professes Christ really is of Christ.
      - Consider Jesus's Parable of the Sower (on next slide).
  - The writer of Hebrews would scoff at the modern notion that one does not need to be in church. Why?
    - Because we are told to encourage one another in faith so that none of us are led astray.

# Jesus's Parable of the Sower

## (Matt. 13:3-23)

- Sower is God.
- Seed is the Gospel.
- Soil is the recipient.
- Plant is the fruit of the gospel.
- **Shallow Soil:**
  - One who hears the gospel but openly rejects it.
  - Gospel never takes root.
- **Rocky Soil:**
  - One who receives the gospel, but willingly gives it up when persecutions begin and when it is no longer popular to be a Christian.
  - There was no genuine acceptance.
- **Thorny Soil:**
  - One who receives the gospel, but willingly gives it up because of the worries of the world and materialism.
  - There was no genuine acceptance.
- **Good Soil:**
  - One who receives the gospel and holds on to it.
  - There is genuine faith because fruit is grown.
  - Genuine faith produces perseverance.



# PEOPLE WERE ENDANGERED BY APOSTASY (3:14).

- Genuine Christianity is not a “one-and-done” affair.
- It is a consistent and personal relationship with God that endures to the end.
- This does not mean that there won’t be times of doubt and despair.
- It also doesn’t mean that one won’t slip and fall.
- But, the overall scheme of one’s life from the moment of salvation to the time the person enters heaven will be of faithfulness.



# PEOPLE WERE GUILTY OF UNBELIEF (3:15-19).

- 5 questions are posed in these verses, again reflecting on Psalm 95.
- Question #1: Who has heard and rebelled? The answer is given in the next question.
- Question: #2: Everyone rebelled except for a select few (Moses, Joshua, Caleb, and a handful of others).
  - After all that God had done for them, they still rebelled.
- Question #3: With whom was God angry? Question answered by the next question.
- Question #4: God was angry with those who continued in sin and rebellion.
- Question #5: To whom did God swear that they would not enter his rest? Those who disobeyed.
  - 1) God used a promise accompanied by undeniable signs (e.g., parting of the Red Sea).
  - 2) God promised spiritual rest which was much more than just land.
  - 3) The people's unbelief led to a hardness of the heart.

# APPLICATIONS

- *While we have assurance of our salvation, disobedience is still a major problem.*
- *Our constant disobedience leads to a hardness of the heart, which in turn will lead to God's judgment, even perhaps resulting in an early demise.*
- *Church attendance IS IMPORTANT!!! As believers, we are to encourage one another and hold each other accountable so that we will not be prone to fall away from God's plan for our lives.*

# Final Applications

1. Be sure you are following the will of God rather than personal opinions.
2. Seek to honor God in all your pursuits.
3. Do not neglect regular attendance in God's house.
4. Be sure to encourage fellow believers and hold one another accountable.
5. Understand the consequences of blatant rebellion and the hardening of your heart.
6. Do not feel the need to live in constant disbelief, or you may miss God's rest.
7. Understand that while salvation is assured, your personal spiritual development is not. You can help or hinder God's relational movement in your life.

# Discussion

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*What causes us to reject God's commands or his truths?  
Excluding human nature itself,  
what causes us to desire to  
rebel against God?*

*Why is church attendance  
important for spiritual growth?*





# JESUS THE HEALER

A pair of hands, palms up, held out in a gesture of healing or blessing. The hands are positioned in the lower half of the frame, with a soft, warm glow emanating from the palms, suggesting a divine or healing light. The background is dark, making the hands and the light they emit stand out.

**Next Study:**

**“Jesus: The Supreme  
Physician”  
(Hebrews 4:1-16)**