

## LESSON 3

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### CHRIST, SUPERIOR TO MOSES

The Jews boasted in the prophets (1:1) and in the Law that was given through angels (2:2). They believed that they had been given the greatest lawgiver—Moses. Next to Moses, the high priest was the most important official in their belief system.

One goal of this epistle was to keep Jewish Christians from reverting to Judaism. Because they held such a high view of the prophets, the Law, and Moses, it was important for the writer to show that Christ was greater than Moses and the first high priest, Aaron. Consequently, Hebrews 3:1—4:13 addresses Christ's superiority to Moses.

#### **CHRIST, THE APOSTLE AND HIGH PRIEST (3:1–6)**

Moses was indeed a prophet and an intercessor. He even foretold that another prophet would replace him (Deut. 18:15–18). This new “Moses” and the new “Apostle and High Priest” constituted a “newness that had come,” as introduced in 2:17. Jesus, under the new covenant, obviously holds the roles that both Moses and Aaron held separately under the old.

1. Is confession a one-time event or a continuous practice? Explain.
2. Jesus is greater than whom, according to the text?
3. What are some differences between Moses and Jesus?
4. How does pride factor into the Christian life?

#### **CHRIST'S REST (3:7—4:13)**

As God's new covenant people, we are like the people of the old covenant, progressing in our wilderness wanderings as we move toward our Promised Land. Christ, who is greater than Moses, is our Leader, and we are following Him to a Promised Land that is better than the one given in the old covenant.

Therefore, the warning to the Old Testament people applies equally to those under the New Testament.

5. Describe the parallel made between the Israelites when they rebelled against God for forty years and us when we rebel against Him (vv. 7–11).
6. How do we know that Hebrews is more “urgent” than a “theological treatise” would be?
7. What does the phrase “partakers of Christ” (v. 14) means?
8. What kind of warning was implicit in the Israelites’ failure to enter Canaan?