Hebrews 3:1-11

Jesus is greater than Moses

The writer of Hebrews was being written to Jewish believers, we always need to have this in mind to fully understand the book of Hebrews. The writer is constantly referring to the old testament and using language that the Jewish people would be very familiar with. That doesn't mean that those of us who aren't Jewish can't apply these things or understand them, it means we just need to study it a little harder.

So that being said if the writer wants to show the Jewish believers that Jesus is greater, than He has to address the elephant in the room.

Some of the biggest names in Jewish history have written about how great Moses is:

1 century writers:

Philo said that Moses achieved the highest possible level of human perfection and communion with the Divine. [1]

Josephus wrote that Moses surpassed all human capacity and possessed a prophetic vision that was completely unmatched by any who came after him.

The Talmud and Midrash:

Talmud "All the prophets looked through a dim mirror, but Moses looked through a clear mirror"

Midrash "Father of the Prophets," the "Father of the Sages," and the ultimate intercessor who successfully argued with God to spare the Israelite nation from destruction.

The Principle of Faith by Maimonides (Rambam): 7. Moses is the greatest prophet: The prophecy of Moses was entirely unique and superior to all other prophets, past or future. He perceived God with unparalleled clarity.

Of Maimonides Jews say: From Moses [of the Torah] to Moses [Maimonides], there arose none like Moses."

LAUREN AND GLEN JOB

VERSE 1- Jesus is our Confession not Moses

We are holy partakers of the heavenly calling,

Set apart by Jesus, to be partners with Jesus, so all can come to know Jesus.

Apostle- meaning one who is sent, we see in many scriptures that Jesus was sent by the Father

John 5:36

VERSE 2-4

Jesus was faithful to the Father, we'll get back to this

Notice His house: Meaning Moses was faithful in God's house

This passage also gives more evidence of two major things about Jesus:

1. He is God- He who built the house, He who built all things is God, v6 Son over His own house

2. He as God is triune- Him who appointed Him, a Son over His, v7 the Holy Spirit says. (John 1:1)

House- refers to the temple we will see that in (Num 12:7)

Moses

Why Moses? Well, Moses brought the Law from God to the people. If Jewish believers were wanting to go back to the Law then they needed to see that Jesus is better than the one who brought it.

In the Jewish point of view Moses is given the Highest honour over anyone in Jewish history both in bible time and currently. This view largely comes from this passage: Numbers 12:6-8

6 Then He said,

“Hear now My words:

If there is a prophet among you,

I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision;

I speak to him in a dream.

7 Not so with My servant Moses;

He is faithful in all My house.

8 I speak with him face to face,

Even plainly, and not in dark sayings;

And he sees the form of the LORD.

Why then were you not afraid

To speak against My servant Moses?”

God Himself clarified that Moses was like no other man. If the Lord said this about Moses how much greater is Jesus?

In Deut 18:18 and 34:10 God promises that there will be One like Moses, this Man will have relegation like God had with Moses face to face conversations. Yet to be like Moses didn’t mean Moses was greater its actually the reverse Moses was just a small picture of the relationship that Jesus has with the father. The one coming like Moses is confirmed to be Jesus by Peter in Acts 3 and then again by Stephen in Acts 7.

Though Moses is highly regarded he was still just a man, but we and the jewish people can’t look over this fact:

Moses took his people to the promised land, But Jesus (Joshua) took His people into the promised land.

VERSE 5-6

See all that Moses did was just a sign of what was to come in Jesus. Just take the temple as an example everything about it points to Jesus, that’s a whole other study though. Moses built a temple that faded but Jesus built own that will never fade

Don’t miss the beginning of verse 5 though,

Moses is still called faithful though he did not enter the promised land because He misrepresented God, God is so gracious even though we have moments of disobedience He still calls us faithful in the end.

Do you feel like you've failed God? That you haven't lived according to His standard? Or you've made the wrong decisions in life? Do You feel like you've failed others? Failed at being a parent, failed at being a spouse, failed at being a son or daughter. It's easy to convince yourself you've failed in all aspects of life.

I know I've been there.

Maybe it's not just a feeling of failure, maybe right now you are thinking of the moment you actually did fail. You might be living through the consequences of your actions right now or if not now you know the're coming.

Don't miss this fact: God is faithful.

This is central to this passage we're looking at. It's what verse two says, we know Jesus is faithful because He was faithful in going to the cross.

Luke 22:42 "Not my will but yours be done"

Hebrews 12:2 "for the joy that was set before him endured the cross"

It's Not He CAN be faithful or He MIGHT be faithful if you are. No He IS faithful

listen to what the Word says:

1 John 1:9 "if we confess our sins, He IS Faithful and Just and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

2 Timothy 2:13 "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."

God is faithful, just like He is just, He is love, He is Gracious, He is holy. These are who God is. Love is not God, God is love. Faithful is not God, God is faithful.

One of my favourite examples of God being faithful is in Nehemiah 9:19-21 and I think it ties in perfectly to the next set of verses we will go into.

19 Yet in Your manifold mercies

You did not forsake them in the wilderness.

The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day,

To lead them on the road;

Nor the pillar of fire by night,

To show them light,

And the way they should go.

20 You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them,

And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth,

And gave them water for their thirst.

21 Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness;

They lacked nothing;

Their clothes did not wear outfn

And their feet did not swell.

This is the very people that the writer of Hebrews is reminding us next in the passage. Even though they were in rebellion against God He STILL sustained them.

So if God is faithful to us it is only reasonable to be faithful to Him, hence why as v6 says “if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.” The writer of Hebrews gives a us a great example in these next verses.

VERSE 7-11

This a strong reminder of our need to be obedient to God, though God is gracious He is severe.

Let that sink in

There is a question we should be asking from this passage:

How come Moses was considered faithful and the generation of Israelites weren't?

As a Christian these passages might scare you, you may be thinking of all the times you were like Peter and denied God in word or action but I want to give you some comfort.

With the answer to this question. The difference between Moses and that generation in the dessert was: belief.

Moses had moments of disobedience but the Israelites refused to Believe God.

If you have put your faith in Jesus Christ you are being obedient, you are faithful in God's eyes. Doesn't give us an excuse to not represent God through our action like Moses did, there are consequences, but you are still written in the book of life.

If you are here and you don't believe in Jesus take these words as a caution, don't harden your heart in rebellion. Receive the comfort and Hope that God wants to give you.

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