

Sermon Notes on Hebr. 3:1-6, Sunday after New Year

1. Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and deeds. Acts 7:22. When he was grown, he refused to be called a son of the daughter of Pharaoh and chose rather to suffer evil with the children of God than to experience temporary enjoyment of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. Hebr. 11:24-26. He was a man of true faith. Hebr. 11:23-29. Moses was very humble and meek. More so than all people on earth. Num. 12:3. Today's text says that he was faithful in the whole household of God as a servant to testify of the things which would be said in the NT. He foreshadowed Christ as Prophet. Deut. 18:5 and Acts 3:22. He was 40 yrs. of age when he left Egypt, 80 when he returned to Egypt from Midian and 120 when he died. When he kept the flock of Jethro in Midian the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in the bush. Ex. 3:2. The Angel of the Lord in the OT is Christ. During Jesus' public ministry, Moses and Elijah appeared to Jesus on the Mt. of Transfiguration. Lk. 9:30.
2. The Law was given through Moses. Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Jn. 1:17. The Old Covenant came through Moses. It was the Covenant of the Law which foreshadowed Christ. The Hebrews were *faith* saved by grace through Christ foreshadowed in the Covenant of the Law. The New Covenant came through Christ. He fulfilled the shadows of the Old Covenant. But there is only one, holy, Christian Church. Our text today says that Moses was faithful as a servant IN the house (the church). Jesus was faithful as God's Son OVER God's house. But it is the same house. The Hebrews who repented and believed are now in heaven. Hebr. 11:8-40. They are the great cloud of witnesses who spur us on in this life. Hebr. 12:1.
3. Moses was the author of the first five books of the OT. Jesus said so. Jn. 5:45-47. Though Jesus wrote nothing while on earth, He is the author of the whole Bible. Col. 3:16.
4. Both Moses and Jesus were faithful to God. Moses was a faithful SERVANT IN the house of God, the church. Jesus was the faithful SON of God OVER the house of God. He is the author, the builder, of the house of God, the church. The house of God is the Kingdom of God, both here on earth and in heaven above.
5. Moses frequently testified of the things which would be said of Jesus. He was a prophet, a type of Jesus. Deut. 18:15. He wrote the first prophecy about Jesus, Gen. 3:15. He wrote about Abraham, the Father of believers, Gen. 12-25, the central section of Gen. Paul has much to say about Abraham. Rom. 4; Gal. 3. The book of Leviticus, especially chapter 16, has much to say about the Ceremonial Law which prefigured Christ. Num. 24:17 has a brilliant prophecy about Jesus. But Jesus fulfilled all that Moses predicted.
6. Vs. 1 of our text says that we confess Jesus as Apostle and Chief Priest. Here only is Jesus called an Apostle, one sent by God, not one of the twelve, of course. All of Hebr. tells us much about Jesus, the great High Priest, who offered Himself just once as a sacrifice. He is both sacrifice and Priest.
7. Our text in the first and last vss. tells us to do two things:  
a) Keep your eye on Jesus the Apostle and High Priest Whom you confess, and b) Hold fast the confidence and rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.
8. The majority of Moses' followers were lost because they ceased to confess their faith, Hebr. 3:7-4:7. Our text says that Jesus has greater honor and glory than Moses had because Jesus is the Author of the church. Those who were lost at Moses' time are a warning to us to endure and not to abandon our faith in Jesus. Hebr. 4:11 says: "Therefore let us be zealous to enter into that rest, lest anyone fall by their example of disobedience."

Sermon Outline on Hebr. 3:1-6, Sunday after New Year

Theme: JESUS IS SIMILAR TO, BUT GREATER THAN, MOSES

Introduction: The recipients of the Epistle to the Hebrews were converted Jews. But, after they became Christians, they were persecuted. And so they wanted to go back to the OT only. But the writer says that that is dangerous. Moses was great but Christ was greater. Moses was of the Old Covenant. But Christ, the Author of the New Covenant, fulfilled the Old Covenant. Do not abandon your confession of Him.

I-Moses was great

A-He was faithful. He was a Hebrew, raised by the Egyptians. But, at the age of 40 he chose to suffer with God's children rather than to enjoy the pagan life of Egypt. He fled to Midian. There he lived for 40 yrs. until the Angel of the Lord, Jesus, called him. He faithfully obeyed. He went back to Egypt to deliver God's children. For 40 yrs. he suffered much at the hands of God's people. But he pleaded to God not to destroy the children of God. Ex. 33:31-32.

B-He was a servant. Num. 12:3 tells us that he was of all men on earth the most humble and meek. He served the children of God as their prophet, their teacher. Deut. 18:15. He even served the church of all generations by writing the first five books of the OT and recording a number of prophecies concerning Jesus Christ. He served the church of the OT and also of the NT. The Covenant of the Law was given through Moses. This is described especially in Leviticus. The Day of Atonement, chapter 16, plainly prefigures Jesus Christ.

C-He was in the house of God. Moses was highly blessed. He led God's people out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, to Sinai and thereafter to the Promised Land. But he was only a member of the church, not its author or master. Today, pastors are leaders of the church but they are only members not authors of the church.

II-But Christ is greater

A-Like Moses Christ was faithful. At Hebr. 10:5 the writer quotes Ps. 40:7-9, a prophecy concerning Jesus Christ. It contains these words: "Behold, I come to do your will, O God." In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed: "Not My will, but Thine be done." It was not easy for Jesus to be faithful. He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He had nowhere to lay His head. He became poor so that we might become rich.

B-He was God's Son. In the vss. previous to our text, Hebr. 2:14-18, we are told what God's Son has done. He took human nature on Himself so that He might destroy him who had the power of death, the devil. He had to be made like to His brothers so that He could become their faithful Highpriest. When they are tempted and suffer He understands. Our text speaks of Jesus as the Apostle and Highpriest of God. This was not said of Moses.

C-He was the builder of God's house, the Author of the church. He said to Pilate: "MY Kingdom is not of this world." Jn. 19. He said to His disciples: "On this Rock I will build MY Church." As our text says, Jesus was God's Son OVER the house of God, the church.

Conclusion: The last vs. of our text reads: "We are members of Jesus' house if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end." In Christ the salvation of the Jews was certain. But it became uncertain if they denied Christ. They were tempted to abandon Christ. Likewise, our salvation is absolutely certain in Christ Jesus. But, if we cease to confess Him before men He will not confess us before His heavenly Father. Mt. 10:32,33. If we abandon our confidence in Jesus we abandon our only help in this world of sin and temptation. Hebr. 2:14-18. Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner. Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief!