



The Book of Hebrews 3:2-6_Life Lessons from the Faithfulness of Moses

March 17, 2024

Holy Text: Hebrews 3:2-6

Initial Thoughts:

- In Hebrews 3:1, the author calls the hearer to “consider” Jesus Christ, our ultimate Apostle and the High Priest of our confession.
- That is, Jesus’ “sending” was the ultimate sending, and His priestly work is the fulfillment of all priestly works, carrying His own blood into the Holy Place and making eternal atonement for our sins!

Hebrews 9:11-14 (KJV) *But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

- The author’s main point here is to consider the Person and Work of Christ! Christ was faithful to Him that appointed Him for His holy task, God the Father:

John 6:38-40 (KJV) *For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

John 8:29 (KJV) *And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.*

John 17:4 (KJV) *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*

- And to make this point, he brings to the mind of the hearer, an extremely revered and important biblical figure and critical agent of God, the man Moses, who was also faithful “in all His house.”
- The use of Moses is to once again show the “lessor to greater” nature of the work of Christ: that just as Christ is greater than angels and greater than Abraham, Christ is also greater than Moses. Indeed, Moses spoke of a coming, greater Prophet...

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (KJV) *The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; 16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. 17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. 18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak*

unto them all that I shall command him. 19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

- Both the New Testament speaks of this Prophet as the coming Messiah, or Jesus the Christ.

Acts 3:19-24 (KJV) *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; 20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: 21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. 22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. 23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. 24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. (See also Acts 7:37)*

- Moses, the man of God (Deut 33:1, 2 Chr 30:16; Ps 90:1), was faithful. The hearer here is meant to remember all that Moses accomplished, and praise God for it, but also be reminded and exhorted concerning the Preeminence of Christ:

Hebrews 3:3-6 (NLT) *But **Jesus deserves far more glory than Moses**, just as a person who builds a house deserves more praise than the house itself. 4 For every house has a builder, but the one who built everything is God. 5 Moses was certainly faithful in God's house as a servant. His work was an illustration of the truths God would reveal later. 6 But Christ, as the Son, is in charge of God's entire house. And we are God's house, if we keep our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ.*

- More on this next week. For today, let us consider the faithfulness of Moses...

Who was Moses?

1. Moses (*Môsheh* in Hebrew: "drawing out, rescued") was from the house of Levi. (Ex 2:1)
2. Grew up in the house of Pharaoh. (Ex 2:2-10, backstory in Exodus 1)
3. Used by God to deliver His people from Egypt. (Ex chapters 3-14)
4. The vessel through whom came God's Law, tabernacle instructions, etc. (Ex 20-31; Leviticus)
5. Led Israel out of Egypt and through the Wilderness for 40 years. (Numbers chapters 13-14)
6. Moses' story arc covers 120 years (Deut 34:7), 40 years in Egypt Acts 7:23), 40 years in Midian where he fled and eventually had a family (Moses was 80 when he first spoke to Pharaoh, Ex 7:7), and 40 years used of God to deliver Israel, dying at 120 years old.
7. He is the author of the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch)¹ and one of the greatest prophets in the Old Testament.

Numbers 33:1-2 (KJV) *These are the journeys of the children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt with their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron. 2 And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the LORD: and these are their journeys according to their goings out.*

¹ <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-characters/moses/did-moses-write-genesis/>

Deuteronomy 31:9 (KJV) *And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel.*

Mark 12:26 (KJV) *And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?*

What is this “House?”

1. *House* (*oikos* in Greek) in this section of Scripture is clearly being used in a metaphorical sense.
2. In Hebrews 3:3, Jesus is referred to as the builder of the house. This is why He deserves more glory than one who was a part of the house.
3. Verse 4 reminds us God uses people to build, but the ultimate builder is God Himself. Christ is God the Son, the true builder. Moses was an instrument of God’s building.
4. And in these things, Moses was faithful. (v.5) But Moses work would “testify to the things that were to be spoken later,” (ESV) or “was an illustration of the truths God would reveal later.” (NLT)
5. The type (earthly deliverer) would give way to the Antitype (everlasting Deliverer); the lessor (Moses) points to the Greater: Christ!
6. Even with the allusion to the Old Testament tabernacle taken into account, Moses’ faithfulness was about more than building a physical structure. Moses’ faithfulness concerns his obedience to God’s call: the deliverance (from Egypt), sanctification (the law came through Moses, and glorification of God’s people on earth (entrance into the Promised Land).
7. **Christ would accomplish these things not just temporarily, but spiritually and eternally! Beloved, we are the house; we are the building (v.6; 1 Cor 3:9)! Moses was faithful to lead God’s people (God’s house!) as directed, and his faithfulness resulted in bodily freedom from slavery. Jesus was (and is!) faithful to lead His people as given to Him by the Father, and His faithfulness results in spiritual freedom from sin!**

The Faithfulness of Moses

1. Preparation: Moses’ early life

- **Exodus 2:11-12 (KJV)** *And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren. 12 And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.*
- Raised by Pharaoh’s daughter, Moses was undoubtedly well taken care of and very privileged.
- Somewhere along the line, he learned of his lineage as a Hebrew. Seeing his brethren being oppressed, he took matters into his own hands. Many see this a rash or premature act. However, Scripture says:

Hebrews 11:24-26 (KJV) *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.*

- **Point:** Moses, however immature, had a love for his people that was greater than current comforts. Does your love for God and His people override your sense of self-preservation?

2. Proclamation: Moses' Call

- **Exodus 3:4-5 (KJV)** *And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. 5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.*
- On the backside of the desert in Midian, Moses sees a burning bush. The LORD had seen the oppression and heard the groaning of His people in Egypt, and was calling and commissioning Moses to go and free them, in the power of God. (Ex 3:7-9)
- Moses, humbly and somewhat fearfully, obeyed. (Ex 3:10-Ex chapter 4)
- **Point:** God ordered the details of Moses life (his being spared at birth, his royal upbringing, and even his possible presumptuousness/overzealousness and resulting time in Midian) to bring him to the burning bush and his calling. Amazingly, God does the same for you!

3. Protector: Moses as a agent of deliverance

- After the many confrontations with Pharaoh (Exodus 5-12), and God raining down plague upon the Egyptians, God's people were finally free. God, through Moses, delivered them!

Exodus 12:40-41 (KJV) *Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. 41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt*

- But even after plundering the Egyptians and moving towards the Red Sea, led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Ex 13:17-22), it was not over. The Egyptians pursued them! (Ex 14) The deliverer, by the hand of God, delivered again!

Exodus 14:13-16 (KJV) *And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. 15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: 16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.*

Exodus 14:21-22 (KJV) *And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.*

- **Point:** Moses learned that nothing is too hard for God! No obstacle is too big or enemy too strong! Know this in your soul and have faith!

4. Purity and Priesthood: Moses as the lawgiver

- After two months, Israel reached the wilderness of Sinai. God called Moses to the mountain to receive instructions, called His Law: the Decalogue (Ten Commandments),

instructions for the tabernacle and priesthood, and various commands that applied to Israel's civil, ceremonial, and moral living (Exodus 20-40; whole book of Leviticus, see Lev 27:34).

Exodus 20:1-3 (KJV) *And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

- **Point:** Moses is rightly associated with the Law of God and holiness. He was faithful in His task to teach and re-teach God's people to follow God's commands. We too are the holy brethren!

5. Problems: Moses' trials in the wilderness

- There are too many to list! Israel (God's people) was (and is often) stiff-necked and rebellious, longing for leeks and garlic! (Num 11:5) For the sake of time, one of Moses' first trials involved the behavior of Aaron (Moses' brother and second in command) and the people when Moses was on the mountain with God:

Exodus 32:7-11 (KJV) *And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff-necked people: 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. 11 And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?*

- **Point:** Faithfulness often means a faithful fight...wading into sinful situations with love and holy zeal and standing for righteousness even when there is a cost. Be courageous!

6. Perseverance: Moses finishing his "housework"

- The closing chapters of Deuteronomy depict the faithful work of Moses in God's House.

1. From Mount Ebal, Moses pronounced both blessings and cursing in order to promote Israel's obedience. (Deut 27-28)
2. He led Israel to renew their covenant with God in Moab. (Deut 29)
3. He exhorted Israel to choose life in God instead of death in disobedience! (Deut 30)
4. He chose and appointed his successor, Joshua. (Deut 31)
5. He finished the Pentateuch and delivers it to the Priests. (Deut 31)
6. He sang a song of praise! (Deut 32:1-47)
7. He blessed the people by their tribes (Deut 33) and dies. (Deut 34)

- **Point:** He finished well! He completed his assignment! May we do the same! (2 Tim 4:7-8)

7. Punishment: Moses was still just a man

- The children of Israel, as much as God loved them, were some complaining folk! Over and over again they complained to Moses and Aaron. (Num 11:1-6, 16:3, 16:19, 16:42, 21:5) But in one instance, Moses had enough. After their complaints concerning their thirst, God told Moses to speak to the rock to bring forth water. This is what happened:

Numbers 20:10-12 (KJV) *And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? 11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. 12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.*

- **Point:** Earlier, God commanded that Moses smite a rock to bring forth water. (Ex 17:1-7). This time the instruction was different. This is a lesson from Moses of what NOT to do. Let us trust God and keep our anger and flesh in check. There can be disastrous consequences if we do not!

Prologue: Moses' New Testament Legacy

1. Moses is mentioned 80 times by name in the NT.
2. He is also honored by Jesus (Matt 8:4; Mk 7:10; Lk 20:37)

John 5:45-47 (KJV) *Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. 46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?*

3. Amazingly, he was Elijah when Jesus was Transfigured! (Matt 17:3. See also Rev 11:1-14)
4. Prophetically, Moses can be considered a “type” or a foreshadow of Christ. (Acts 3:22, 7:37)
5. He is mentioned and quoted by Paul in Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, 2 Timothy, and Jude.
6. He is in the “Faith Hall of Fame” (Heb 11:23-24)
7. The victorious saints in Revelation sing his song (and that of the Lamb)!

Revelation 15:3-4 (KJV) *And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. 4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.*

Prayer

May we be encouraged by this Prayer from Moses, the man of God...

Psalms 90:1-17 (KJV) A Prayer of Moses the man of God. *Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*

3 *Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men. 4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the*

night. **5** *Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up.* **6** *In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.* **7** *For we are consumed by thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.* **8** *Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.*

9 *For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.* **10** *The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.* **11** *Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.*

12 *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.* **13** *Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants.* **14** *O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.* **15** *Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.* **16** *Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.* **17** *And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.*

Amen.