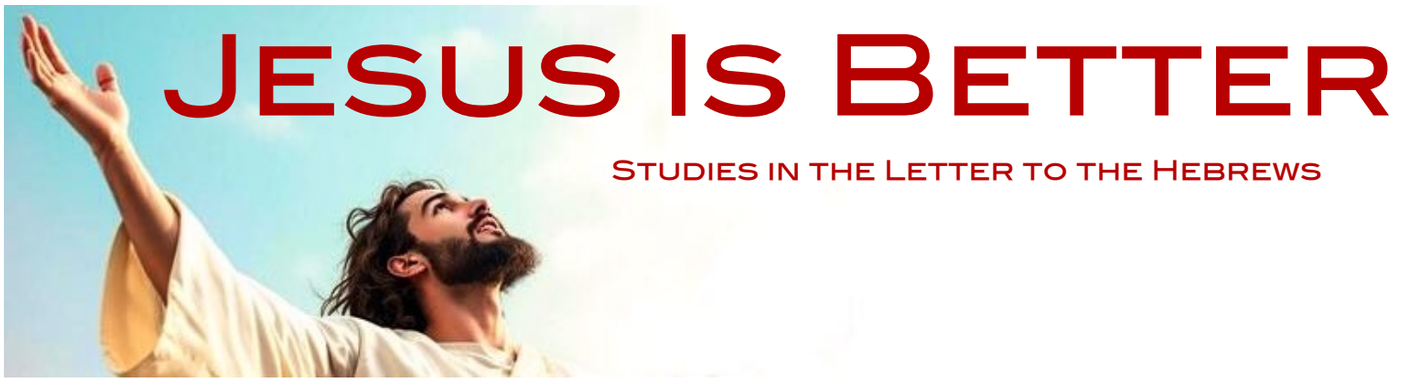

Jesus Is Better

Studies in the Letter to the Hebrews

LESSON 3

The Holy Spirit speaks—say yes today!

Hebrews 3

1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. 2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. 3 Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. 4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. 5 Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. 6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

7 So, as the Holy Spirit says:

> "Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, 9 where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. 10 That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.' 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'"
>
> ***Psalm 95:7-11***

12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. 14 We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. 15 As has just been said:

> "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."
>
> ***Psalm 95:7-8***

16 Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? 17 And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? 18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? 19 So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

A Note on Psalm 95

Though Psalm 95 is untitled in the Hebrew text, the writer of Hebrews ascribes the authorship to David in Hebrews 4:7. The Septuagint and the Latin Vulgate also credit David as author of this psalm.

Set your sights on the Savior

▲*Consider the ministries of Jesus*

1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

- ►*Jesus the authoritative apostle*
- ►*Jesus the perfect priest*
- ►*Jesus the caller of Christians*

▲*Compare and contrast Moses with Jesus*

2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. 3 Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. 4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. 5 Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. 6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house.

- ►*Moses was a faithful servant in God's house – worthy of great honor*
- ►*Jesus was the faithful Son over God's house – worthy of greater honor*

▲*Continue to confess the message of Jesus courageously and confidently*

6 And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

Surrender yourself to the Spirit

▲*Hear the exhortation from the Spirit*

7 So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts

▲*Hear the example from the Scriptures*

8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, 9 where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. 10 That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.' 11 So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'"

- ►*The Israelites rebelled in the desert after deliverance from Egypt — 1440-1400BC*
- ►*The psalmist (Psalm 95) used their bad example as a warning — 1000BC*
- ►*The writer of Hebrews repeated the psalmist's warning to his generation — 50-97AD*
- ►*The Holy Spirit renews the warning to Christians of all generations — 2026AD*

Strengthen your stand

▲*Eliminate the sinful disobedience*

12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

▲*Encourage the sibling saints daily*

13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

▲*Embrace your salvation diligently*

14 We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

▲*Entertain and esteem the Spirit's dealings*

15 As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."

▲*Examine this example of spiritual disaster*

—*The Israelites were delivered*

16 Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt?

—*The Israelites were disobedient*

17 And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned,

—*The Israelites dropped dead in the desert*

17 And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert?

—*The Israelites were denied at the doorway*

18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? 19 So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

1. In the economy of God, disobedience is defined as disbelief, so don't be deceived by fleshly or devilish definitions.
2. The Lord speaks, so determine to keep your ears open and your heart humble all the way to the end of this journey.
3. Today is the day of salvation, so live each day fully — with the people of God — in the presence and plan of God.

Moses

► Moses (alongside Abraham and David) is the central figure of the Old Testament, mentioned 784 times in the KJV Bible.

- Moses' birth and early years are recorded in Exodus Chapters 1-2.
- Moses' calling by God at the burning bush is recorded in Exodus Chapters 3-4.
- Moses' ministry in Egypt as confronter of Pharaoh is recorded in Exodus Chapters 4-12.
- Moses' leadership of the Passover, the Exodus, and the crossing of the Red Sea is recorded in Exodus Chapters 12-15.
- Moses' leadership for 40 years in the desert is recorded in Exodus Chapters 15-40, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
    - ►wandering through the desert
    - ►miraculous provision from God
    - ►battles with enemy armies
    - ►receiving of the law from God
    - ►building of the tabernacle
    - ►institution of the priesthood
    - ►establishment of the sacrificial system
    - ►plans for the inheritance and division of the promised land
    - ►rebellious attitudes and actions of the Israelites

► Listen to the declarations about Moses found in the New Testament.

Moses as lawgiver

John 1:17 The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. *(John)*

John 5:46 Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. *(Jesus)*

Acts 15:21 Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times… *(James)*

Hebrews 9:19 Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people…

Moses as prophet

Acts 3:22 The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people. *(Moses; Peter)*

John 1:45 We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law… *(Philip)*

John 5:45 If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. *(Jesus)*

Luke 24:27 Beginning with Moses…he explained to them what was said…concerning himself. *(Jesus)*

Moses as type

John 3:14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up. *(Jesus)*

Hebrews 3:2 Jesus was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.

Moses as heavenly

Matthew 17:3 There appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus…

Revelation 15:3 They sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb…

► The Book of Hebrews compares and contrasts the ministries of Jesus and Moses, noting the better ministry of Jesus.

► Yet, the ministry of Moses, declaration of the Old Testament Law, was necessary and divinely ordered.

1 Timothy 1:8 The law is good if one uses it properly.

Romans 7:7 I would not have known what sin was except through the law.

Romans 7:12 The law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

Romans 7:14 We know that the law is spiritual…

Galatians 3:24 The law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.

► Though Moses is known as the man of the law, Hebrews 11 declares him to have been a man of faith.