

## Hebrews Chapter 3

In the previous two chapters, Jesus was compared to angels. In chapter 3, He's compared to Moses.

V1. What's the definition of an Apostle? From Christianity.com -

In the Christian faith, apostles were those entrusted by Jesus to help organize the church and spread the message of His teachings. The word apostle comes from the Greek word, *apostellō*<sup>3</sup>, meaning a messenger or one sent on a mission.

Although not used much in common language today except when speaking of Christian principles, in ancient times the word was used to describe someone who was commissioned by another person to represent him in some way.

How are Apostles different from Disciples? Though the terms are sometimes used interchangeably, there is a difference between a disciple and an apostle. A disciple is a devoted student and follower of a teacher. In fact, the Greek word for disciple, *mathētá*, — s, means a learner or pupil.

V1. We don't normally think of Jesus as an Apostle. Jesus was appointed by God as an Apostle and a High Priest. Look at Jesus's mandate for His visit to Earth. John 3:17, Jesus was an Apostle and then in Hebrews 4:14-15, He's a High Priest.

Well, we're instructed to fix our thoughts on Jesus.

V2. Jesus gets a tick, He was faithful, just as Moses was faithful.

V3. In this verse, Moses is not the man but a representation or ambassador of the law ie: the builder is Jesus and the house is the law. So it's saying that Jesus constructed the law which is a departure from common understanding, we always think of the law as God's law, in the same way as we think that God created the universe, but the Bible tells us that Jesus had a lead role in that.

V4. Having grasped that, verse 4 reverts back to as you were... God created everything. This emphasises the interchangeable nature of Jesus and God ie: the Trinity.

V5. There's no record in Exodus chapters 3 or 4 of Moses ever owning a house. It seems he lived with the Priest of Midian, married his daughter and helped out by looking after his sheep. Then, the rest of his life he was wandering around the desert. So what is the house of Moses that Hebrews refers to? It's like a philosophy, almost a religion and it's based upon his experiences and close relationship with God. Deuteronomy 34:10. It's an all encompassing term for what we call the law, which is not just the 10 commandments, there's actually 613 commandments in the Torah, called Mitzvot.

V6. The writer of Hebrews is telling his Jewish believers that there's now another House, the House of Jesus. What do you think might be the differences between the two? The advice is to stick with it.

V7-11 a quote from Psalm 95:7-11. An example of the consequences of giving up. Numbers 13:1-2, verses 28, 32 & 33, then Numbers 14:11-12.

Note, in chapter 2, we were looking at neglecting your faith but this is even more serious, this is rebellion, repenting your repentance.

There is a school of thought that once you're saved, you're always saved. Hebrews 3:11 contradicts that.

V12. We have a duty or responsibility for our own faith to not neglect it and not rebel against God, Philippians 2:12-13. What does work out mean in this context?

V13. We have a duty or responsibility for each other's faith. How do you discharge that responsibility? What does the writer mean by deceitfulness of sin? This section has been talking about wanton sin, or rebellion, is this a change of subject or can rebellion be a result of being deceived?

V14. The example given is documented in Numbers 14, Israel's response to the spies' report on the inhabitants of Canaan. In this story everyone bar Joshua and Caleb who was 20+ would have to wander around the desert until they died of natural causes and only when the last person had died, were the next generation allowed to go in and invade Canaan. Numbers 14:29.

So, God's displeasure was vented out on the whole population for having read this erroneous document, soaked it all in and without question, believed it over the promises and past experience of God's protection throughout the exodus. God's initial response was to annihilate those Jews and He only relented at the intervention of Moses and Aaron, Numbers 14:11-16.

What the writer is saying, is that if you treat God with the same contempt that the Children of Israel did, you will suffer the same fate. Remember, the Children of Israel didn't become atheists overnight, they just said to Him, forget your plans God, this is what we're going to do, we're going back to where we came from. So, how far do you need to push God before you get the same reaction?

So, whilst you are justified by faith and not works, Galatians 2:16, your misdeeds can undo your salvation. Is that right? Is that not what verses 16-19 say?