

Hebrews 7.4-6

Christ, Superior

The superiority of Christ in all things is the theme of this book, and as the writer has moved through this epistle, we have seen Christ revealed in many different aspects...

in *Hebrews 2:9* (NKJV) He is the object of faith, the vision that saves...

⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

In *Hebrews 3:6* (NKJV) He is the Lord over all that belongs to the Father... we who are the spiritual house of God

⁶ but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

And in *Hebrews 7:3* (NKJV) he is the son of God revealed in Melchizedek.

³ without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

Each of these revelations show a different face of the single truth which is being pressed, Jesus is superior to everything, and specifically to the Mosaic Law and ALL of its trappings and institutions.

I. REJECTING THE MESSIAH

A. False purpose - The Jews loved the fact that they were the chosen people of God. They clung to this truth and missed the point of the choosing. They had been chosen to bless the nations. But instead they believed that they were supposed to rule and be honored. Their whole view of the Messiah was that He would free them from Rome, and that He would restore the glory of David's reign.

B. God's Purpose - God had chosen Israel to bless the nations WITH Messiah. There is a promise of deliverance, but it is from sin. There is a restoration of David's throne, but it is an eternal

one, in the heavens, and David's son Messiah Christ Jesus sits upon it for all eternity.

C. The scope surpassed their expectations. - this is the same issue that we often face today. God's scope was about eternal things and bondage to sin. He did not send His Son to free you from unhappiness or poverty. He did not send Jesus to die for your ego, or self-esteem. He did not slaughter His only Son so that you could have your best life now... He did lavish His wrath upon Jesus in payment for your sin; to free us from the bondage of death and to adopt us as sons...

D. But they could not exceed their own limits

John 8.31-58

E. This rejection of Messiah also translates into a rejection of the gospel OF that Messiah. And it is still going on today. This very same conversation with different trappings occurs constantly today. People will not let go of their own desires,

possessions and agenda to serve and follow the King because they want what they want.

II. GIVING HOMAGE TO THE GREATER

A. The Jews revered their ancestors and honored them.

1. Abraham was the first to receive the promises of God's work.
2. He is the founder of the Jewish people
3. He is the original Patriarch, a father, prince and ruler of His family in all its reach.
4. His sons are "the patriarchs"
5. David is also called a patriarch in that the line of Kings comes from Him.

B. This is how the world sees those in power today as well.

1. They see those in powerful positions, with wealth and fortune to be "gods"
2. They revere and honor them
3. They seek to be like them

4. They obey them without thought or discernment
5. They long only to be counted as one of them...

C. So the writer of Hebrews brings us to the point of the submission of the greatest of the patriarchs to the Messiah of God. Abraham's encounter with Melchizedek.

1. Abraham submitted to Melchizedek and honored Him with a tithe of the spoils.
2. He yielded his own rights and paid homage and tribute to the one he esteemed as greater than Himself.
3. Abraham understood that there was more than the physical in play here.
4. He understood that God was the overall goal and that God Himself was being honored in His actions.

D. We must see beyond the present and beyond this life.

1. We have to measure the world and all things by a different gauge than the world uses. We are not worldlings and cannot think like them.
2. We must understand that this world passes away
3. We must know that true greatness lies in the unmerited favor of God and our nearness to Him.
4. We must accept that we are priests and kings unto our God and live out what that means!

Revelation 1:6 (NKJV)

*⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.
Amen.*

III. AUTHORITY AND SUBMISSION

A. The constraint

1. The levites were commanded to receive the tithe of Israel

Numbers 18.21-24

2. They were set above the rest of Israel in this matter and yet , while in the loins of Abraham they too paid homage and tithe to Melchizedek. (Christ, in type at least - but also possibly in person)
3. Thus, they are inferior in honor and majesty to this One who receives the worship of their father Abraham.
 - a.They received this command under the law,
 - b. The source of their authority was the law of God
 - c.But Melchizedek was outside the law, He predates the law by **centuries** - He has authority IN HIMSELF... He needs no other to validate Him

Luke 20.1-8

B. The refusal

1. The rejection of God's choosing was not limited to this, even when the priesthood was

established there were those who rejected God's choice...

Numbers 16.1-3

2. They desired to be the ones who establish who is great and who is honored (nominating themselves, of course)
3. Since the best lies hold a kernel of truth, they reminded Moses that the whole nation was holy.
4. God then demonstrated that He has chosen, and destroyed them for their arrogance. (cf Numbers 16.28-40)

C. The Command implied in the privilege

1. The same is true today -

1Peter 2.4-10

2. And just like them we must acknowledge that our authority and privilege is rooted in

our submission to God's choosing and purpose.

- a. Note the opposition between belief and obedience in v7
 - b. Note the purpose in God's choosing in v9 - that we might declare HIS praises. Our privilege lies in our submission to His greatness. For HE IS SUPERIOR IN EVERYTHING!!! His greatness ALONE makes us great.
3. To refuse to bend the knee to the greater is to reject that which is His authority, God.

IV. BLESSING THE BLESSED

A. Melchizedek blessed Abraham

1. The greater the dignity of the one being blessed, the greater the required majesty of the one doing the blessing.

2. AND - the greater honor is bestowed upon the one doing the blessing when it is received well by the great one being blessed.

a. He who held the promises of God

b. Saw the day of Christ and rejoiced!

John 8:56 (NKJV)

⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."

c. And he joyfully submitted to his better.

B. Promise and truth alone is not the blessing

1. We may know all the promises of God

2. We may believe everything He said

3. We may hold fast to all of the scripture

4. But unless the God of the blessing is

present to honor and bless the promises are nothing. Remember the Jews kept the law and knew it, they outwardly obeyed it, but largely they did not have a relationship with the God they served.

C. God blesses us in Christ

1. Here is the crux of the whole matter
2. Christ Jesus IS the very heart of God's work, God's purpose, God's promise, God's blessing to us.
3. He is the subject, the object and the power of every promise God ever made

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

4. Everything comes to us from Christ alone!

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

- D. And in Christ Jesus we give all honor and praise to God as we submit to Him

1Timothy 1:17 (NKJV)

*¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever.
Amen.*

Revelation 5:11–14 (NKJV)

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!” ¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.