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THE HIGH PRIEST OF OUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 11
HEBREWS 3:1-2

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I want to give a corrected translation of this chapter and then we will come back and study it verse by verse.

Verse 1

For which reason, Holy members of the family of God, associates of the heavenly vocation, concentrate on the Apostle, even the High Priest of our acknowledgement, Jesus.

Verse 2

Jesus, being faithful to the one, God The Father, having appointed him, as also was Moses and his entire house (The dispensation of Israel).

Verse 3

For example, this one, Jesus Christ, has been permanently evaluated, being more deserving than Moses, by so much as the one having constructed and furnished the house, keeps on having more honor than the house.

Verse 4

For every house is furnished and constructed by the agency of someone; but the one (Christ) having constructed and furnished all things, God.

Verse 5

Now, Moses in fact was faithful, dependable, trustworthy in all his house (Dispensation of Israel). He was dependable as a noble servant, for evidence of things that are about to be communicated.

Verse 6

But Christ as an adult Son over his house (The Church Age) whose house are we, if we hold fast, if we have in full and secure possession, if we steer and maintain our course of confidence in doctrine, and the object of boasting, Christ the only celebrity of the expectation (his bride) stabilized by grace until the end (end of our Christian pilgrimage).

Verse 7

For this reason, therefore, according as the Holy Spirit communicates, quote "This day if you will hear and concentrate on his voice.

Verse 8

Do not go on hardening your hearts, as in the reversionism of the Meribah in the day of testing in the desert."

Verse 9

In which place your reversionist generation, began testing God to determine good or evil in him, by means of approving him after testing, and they had a panoramic view of my grace provision for forty years.

Verse 10

Because of which reversionism, I, God, was disgusted with that generation and said, "They are always being deceived in the heart and they have not learned my ways."

Verse 11

"Therefore in keeping with the facts, I promised with a solemn oath in my disgust 'my name is not God if they shall enter into my rest' (This refers to super grace living on the earth)."

Verse 12

Beware, members of the family of God, that there not be in any one of you a malignant heart of unbelief, by revolting from the always Living God.

Verse 13

But keep on encouraging self and others on each successive day, as long as in whatever place you are located, it is called, this day, that not one of you become hardened by delusion from sin.

Verse 14

For we have become partners, associates of Christ, if indeed we retain and secure the beginning of our essence (the daily function of grace moving on toward super-grace) stabilized by super-grace until the end.

Verse 15

As long as it is being said (quotation from Psalm 95:8) "This day if you will hear and concentrate on his voice (Bible doctrine) do not go on hardening your hearts as in the reversion revolution of the Meribah

Verse 16

For who having heard, revolted? Did not all having come out from Egypt through Moses?

Verse 17

Then with whom was he disgusted forty years? Was it not the ones having missed the mark (reversionism) whose dead bodies have fallen in the desert? (The answer--yes it was!)

Verse 18

Then to whom did he promise with an oath that they should not enter into his rest?

The first answer--Only those who were rebellious.

Verse 19

So we perceive that they were not able to enter in because of lack of faithfulness.

To understand this chapter you have to understand the Angelic Conflict and operation footstool. You also need to understand reversionism and the super-grace life. The believers here in Hebrews were just like the Exodus generation and they were all in reversionism. (Having left Egypt is a picture of salvation.) They were on the outside trying to get in. So the ones from Egypt were trying to get into Canaan. But the ones here in Hebrews to whom this was written were reversionists or the inside going to the outside (going outside the grace life). The Exodus generation were on the outside, going into Canaan. These Jews to whom Hebrews was addressed were on the inside but were rapidly about to go to the outside.

The whole subject of Hebrews 3-6 is what reversionism will do to you. We begin chapter three with the celebrity-ship of Jesus Christ. In the first six verses of this chapter we meet the celebrity of the Church Age. In verses 7-19 we see the signs of reversionism.

So these two sections of this chapter set up a contrast. Signs of super-grace--this is the celebrity-ship of Jesus Christ. Then we see signs of reversionism--and this is the breakdown of the faith-rest life by the Jews. Verses 1-6--The Celebrity of the Church--Jesus Christ. Verses 7-19--The breakdown and reversionism of the Exodus generation.

HEBREWS 3:1 "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;" This word translated "wherefore" is from "hothen" and it points out the reason, so it should read, "For which reason." The word "holy brethren" are from "hagioi adelphoi" and it refers to believers who are of the family of God. So many times we will use expressions like "Blessings on you, brother" or "Praise God, brother" or "God willing" and it is just so much hot air. That is not what is meant by this phrase. Holy here means to be in union with Christ. It refers to what he has done for us. Next we have the word "partakers" and it is from "metochos" and means partners or associates. (Now you may not consider yourself a good partner, but you are a partner.)

Summary

1. This noun emphasizes the fact that every Christian is in full-time Christian service. You were drafted into full-time service at the moment of your conversion.
2. This noun "metochos" emphasizes Christianity as a relationship, in contrast to religion which is slavery to the devil.
3. In religion man works to gain the approbation of God.
4. In Christianity God does the work in order to bless man.
5. Religion is human good. Christianity is divine good.
6. Religion is legalism. Christianity is grace.
7. In Christianity, every believer is holy. In religion, every member is trying to attain holiness.
8. In the Church Age, every believer is an associate of God.

Next we read, "Of the heavenly calling" and this is a genitive singular of "epouranios" and a genitive singular of "klesis." One is a descriptive term and the other shows the relationship. We are related to God through election. Every believer priest is in full-time Christian service. Our appointment goes back to the cross. When the substance replaces the shadow (which Jesus did at the cross) there is a breakthrough. We move into that era called "universal priesthood" and every believer is in full-time Christian service.

Look at a summary of their condition

- a. They were born again but were negative toward doctrine.
- b. They were only three years away from national destruction.
- c. They had allowed false doctrine to crowd out reality.
- d. They had allowed reversionism to possess them.

They were really embarrassed over the conduct of most all of them except Moses, and that's why they glorified Moses too much.

The next word is an aorist, active, imperative of "katanoeo" and it means to think according to a norm or standard and it really means "to concentrate." It means to become occupied with Christ in your mind. This is a process and must go on all the time. It is a growing experience. (Many who say they love Jesus really don't know what they are talking about. Most of the talk about loving Jesus is just sentimental trash. Loving Jesus requires maximum doctrine in the mind and it requires daily concentration on Christ.)

Many people try to "con" God out of giving them a blessing. But you remember this--it doesn't work with God. Most people like that are in the sophomore stage of life. Your capacity to Love the Lord is based on the amount of Bible doctrine you have stored in your mind. But at the point of loving the Lord, most people want to put the cart before the horse. (I have seen young people come around the church and get involved because they want to find a partner, or want to find companionship. Now that may be good, but it is not primary. Get the Word of God in your mind and all these other details will take care of themselves.)

I hear some young person refer to another of the opposite sex by saying, "He turns me on." Well, so what? That isn't love. Bees and bugs and mosquitoes have that. But the change in your soul can really be fantastic when you take in Bible doctrine into your mind every day. Please notice this point--Jesus Christ initiates this love. So here we are facing a command given to every believer. Christ is to be your life. This leads to occupation with Christ.

The next word is "apostle" from "apostolos" and it means one of highest authority. Christ is the highest authority in your life. Next we have the word "high priest" and when this is used for Christ, it sets him in a class by himself. No other high priest was ever in his class. His being high priest was a unique class, one all by himself. When this little word "kai" is used here between Apostle and High Priest, it means to point out the fact that Christ is totally unique. He was the highest high priest of all. The word for High Priest is "archierus" and it emphasizes citizenship. Aaron was not a priest like this. Here is a High Priest who is set apart from all others.

Next we have the words "of our profession" and it is from "homologia" and means "our acknowledgement." In other words, we recognize Jesus as superior, in a class by himself.

Then notice that we have just the word Jesus, not Jesus Christ. It is his humanity that is in focus here. Jesus, which came from Joshua, is his human name. He, Jesus, was appointed a High Priest while he was on the cross paying for our sins. On the cross, you call him "JESUS" for God was not dying. Melchizedek was a human being. On the cross, you call him Jesus, but Christ means he was King. It does make a difference and every jot and tittle in scripture is important.

(I have heard people say--"All those words the preacher talks about don't mean so much. Just love everybody and you'll make it." Now that's malarky!)

So this verse says, "For which reason, holy men of the family of God, associates of the heavenly vocation, concentrate on the apostle, even the High Priest of our acknowledgement, Jesus.

So Jesus was appointed High Priest on the cross. We are appointed priests at the moment of our profession of faith in Christ. But we can't function as priests until we move into the super-grace life.

The object of the Christian life is to enter into super-grace. This is only accomplished by taking doctrine into your life and mind. This is the way the Edification Complex is built. This affords the capacity for life in every realm. The great danger here is reversionism, and it is easy for Satanic doctrine to attack the super-grace believer and begin to dismantle the Edification Complex. This issue of this chapter is this--Is Jesus Christ the celebrity of your life?

HEBREWS 3:2 "Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house." Please notice that the word "Jesus" of verse 1 should go with verse 2. "In the original greek there is no "Jesus Christ" in this verse just "Jesus." The reason is that the emphasis is on his humanity.

CONSIDER OCCUPATION WITH CHRIST

1. The basis for occupation with Christ is the intake of Bible doctrine through grace perception. It is God's work in us. He loved us with a perfect love. He was alone on the cross. He was alone on the cross as the last Adam. The right woman for Christ is the Church. The Jewish age was interrupted. The Jewish age had a special priesthood. The Church Age has a universal priesthood. You are your own priest, your own representative before God. God makes love to the believer through Bible doctrine.
(Jeremiah 9:24, Ephesians 3:18 and 19, Ephesians 4:20)
2. With doctrine as the working object of faith, the believer has maximum response and this brings him to be "a friend of God." The words are "philos Theou," and we see this in James 2:22-23.
3. Occupation with Christ is based on the glorification of Christ. Colossians 3:1-2.
4. Occupation with Christ is the way to stay in fellowship every day. Hebrews 12:1-2.
5. Occupation with Christ is illustrated by right man and right woman. Ephesians 5:25-32, 1 Cor. 11:7.
6. The function of grace perception is the believer responding to Christ's love. James 1:21-22.
7. The sealing of the Holy Spirit guarantees this love relationship between Jesus Christ and the believer. Ephesians 1:11-14.
8. Occupation with Christ brings the believer into total dependence on grace provision. Man just links himself up with the provision the Lord made for him millions of years ago. Psalm 37:4-5.
9. Occupation with Christ is associated with stability. Psalm 16:8-9

10. Occupation with Christ is the basis of blessing in suffering. Reversionism intensifies suffering. Psalm 77.
11. Occupation with Christ is the basis for entrance into the super-grace life. Hebrews 3:6.

This second verse of this chapter reminds us that it is important for the believer to be occupied with Christ just as rapidly as possible. The word "who" is not in the original. The verse should start with the word "Jesus" which is the last word of verse 1.

It says here Jesus was and it is a present, active, indicative of "eimi" and refers to his eternal state. "Jesus always constantly being" is what it means. The word "faithful" is an accusative singular of "pistos" and it means his character and perfection demands that he always will be faithful to you and to every other member of the human race. (So don't talk about loving Jesus until you really do. And you can't love him until you know him. Bible doctrine will change all that.) In order for Christ to be faithful to you, he had to be faithful to the Heavenly Father and he has never once been unfaithful to him. Jesus was faithful to his Father, and then that faithfulness is directed toward you.

"To him" is a dative singular of "ho" and is a definite article. The highest example of his faithfulness was the cross when he paid for all of our sins. This faithfulness took our high priest to the cross. He was appointed Saviour in the manger and he was appointed high priest on the cross. He was born king and he became high priest on the cross. "That appointed him" is an aorist, active, participle of "poieo." This means that God the Father appointed Christ High Priest on the cross and it is an absolute fact. The Father planned it and saw that it was carried out and no one can change it one iota. The words "as also" comes from "hos kai" and this means to point out the contrast. Jesus Christ is the only celebrity, but there are many heroes.

Moses - A Great Hero

Moses is mentioned here because he was one of the greatest men of all time. During his leadership of Israel he was maligned, accused, ignored and mistreated. About the only ones who stood with him were Joshua and Caleb and his Ethiopian wife and Aaron. Moses was a military genius, an architectural genius, a musical genius and an administrative genius.

Look at Numbers Chapter 12 for a moment--

It contains these facts--

- a. Aaron and Miriam spoke against Moses. It was because of his second marriage to the Ethiopian woman.
- b. They questioned the authority of Moses as a teacher.
- c. They falsely assumed the Lord had given them equal teaching power.
- d. In the face of this the Lord called Moses the meekest man (oriented to grace).
- e. The Lord gave a sharp reprimand to Aaron and Miriam.
- f. In verse 7 the Lord told them they were wrong and Moses was completely faithful.

Hebrews 3:2 ends by saying that Moses was faithful "In all his house" and the words are "en holos oikos" and it means in the generation of his dispensation.

In our next study we will see the difference in a celebrity and a hero.