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W. O. Vaught

Ouachita Baptist University

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CHRIST - THE ONLY PERFECT CELEBRITY

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 12
HEBREWS 3:3-5

Dr. W. O. Vaught
Immanuel Baptist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

HEBREWS 3:3-5 "For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;"

The word "for" is "gar" and here it is used in an explanatory sense. "houtos" means "this one, and only this one." It is referring to Jesus Christ who is our only celebrity. This is the age of the universal priesthood and Jesus Christ is our only High Priest. He is our great and perfect high priest. The capacity to love Jesus Christ and the capacity to receive him as the only celebrity comes about by having an Edification Complex in the soul and from having Bible doctrine in the soul.

So "houtos" here is a very important word. It is an index finger pointing to Jesus Christ and only to him. When one ignores Christ or plays him down or fails to give him preeminence, it is because of the lack of Bible doctrine in the mind. The more doctrine we possess the more we recognize him as the one and only celebrity. The reason the Jews failed to recognize Jesus Christ was at this exact point. Their minds were filled with legalism and self-righteousness. They had memorized the Law Of Moses. They were filled with ceremony and rituals and offerings. When Christ came along they failed to do what this word "houtos" says we are to do, to recognize him as the one and only celebrity. This is what eventually happened to the Jerusalem Church. They neglected doctrine and became ritualistic and the center of the Christian world moved from them to Antioch and then to Ephesus and then on to the churches scattered all over the earth.

Now this word "man" is not in the original but the translators have put it here to try to let you know what the writer is saying. There is no doubt that he is talking about Christ. A reversionistic believer cannot understand the celebrity-ship of Jesus Christ. He is the one and only CELEBRITY because he was Virgin Born, because he was perfect in character and essence and conduct, because he was able to atone for the sins of the whole human race, and as a result of all this, God appointed him High Priest forever. The uniqueness of his Saviourhood adds to the celebrity-ship of Christ. Moses was a great hero, but when Christ appeared on the scene, he went far beyond Moses.

So this verse begins by saying, "For example, this one and only this one, Jesus Christ."

"Was counted worthy of" is the perfect, passive, indicative of "axzioo" and means "to be considered worthy." The perfect tense means that this is Christ's permanent place for all time. Celebrities come and go in our world, but Christ is the one CELEBRITY forever. Passive voice mean Christ received this place from God The Father when he bore our sins on the cross. In that event Christ was made the perfect priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. When he was resurrected, when he ascended, and when he was seated at the right hand side of God, God said

to him, "Sit down until I make thine enemies thy footstool." Now take all of these events together and roll them into one and that's what it means when it says, "Was counted worthy of." Christ is counted worthy in his resurrected humanity. The indicative mood means the reality of this achievement. Christ is the unique figure of the universe. "Worthy of" means deserving. "Of more" is a genitive singular of "pleion" and is the comparative of "polus." It is here in the emphatic position and it means "more, absolutely more." It means that Christ exceeded every-one else. No one else is in a class with him.

The word for glory is "doxza" and it means a glory that belongs to Jesus Christ which is unique. There is no other glory like this. Christ is in a place by himself. Therefore, never write Christ in the list with other great men. Write his name then list all the others separately. If you put him in the list with others, it just goes to show that you don't know who Christ really is. This is a genitive of description. "Than Moses" is "para" plus the accusative and it means when you compare Jesus Christ with Moses, he is the one CELEBRITY and far beyond Moses. We do not in this way take away from Moses.

THE GREATNESS OF MOSES

This passage in no way takes away from Moses. Moses was the greatest man of his day. Moses was one of the greatest men that ever lived. He was an administrative genius, a military genius, a construction genius, and far superior to the other men of his day. Name the five greatest men that ever lived and I believe you would have to put Moses in that list. But you can't compare Jesus Christ with him, because Christ is so far beyond Moses. Every Jew in the world, whether a believer or unbeliever, recognizes that Moses was a very great man. Moses is to the Jews what the Apostle Paul is to the Christians and what Julius Caesar is to mankind in general. But pour all human greatness into one person and it doesn't begin to approximate Jesus Christ. So the verse thus far is this--"For example, this one and only this one Jesus Christ, has been permanently evaluated deserving of more glory than Moses."

Then we have "inasmuch as" and this is "kata" plus the accusative of "hosos" and really means "by so much as" and then we have "he who hath builded" and this is an aorist, active, participle of "kataskeuazo." That not only means to build the house but it means to completely furnish it also. The Lord Jesus Christ not only built the house but furnished it throughout. Moses lived in a house and that house we call "The Age of Israel." That whole house consists of the Age of the Patriarchs, the Age of the Law, and the Tribulation. The first two parts ran together but the last seven years of that age will not come until the Church Age has been completed. Moses is the one who lived in this house, but Jesus Christ is the one who built and furnished the house and will complete that house in his way and time. Jesus Christ is the author of the dispensations. So this phrase says, "The one having constructed and equipped the house." This is a nomic aorist. Millions of years ago Jesus Christ constructed the dispensations and he is carrying out the plan.

The word "house" is from "oikos" and it is an objective genitive, and it refers to human history, divided into the dispensations. If this had been a literal house it would have been in the accusative, but this is a descriptive genitive and therefore, we know it describes dispensations. The word "hath" is a present, active, indicative of "echo" and it means "he keeps having and holding." He constructed the dispensations and now

he holds them in his hand. No one can change or destroy his plan for human history. The words "more honour" is an accusative singular of "time" and it means honour and evaluation plus "pleon" and this is the comparative of "polus" and is an ablative of comparison. It refers to the dispensations. So this verse is saying that no matter where you find yourself in history, Jesus Christ has always been and will always be the one and only CELEBRITY. So we have many heroes but only one CELEBRITY.

HEBREWS 3:4 "For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God." This verse goes on to say that there is a difference in the creature and the creator. In this verse we now approach the one CELEBRITY from the standpoint of his deity. "Gar" is used here as a particle of explanation. "Every house" is just another way of saying that all the dispensations are of his planning and his care.

Take a look again at the dispensations--

THE AGE OF THE GENTILES

This begins with Adam and goes all the way down to Abraham. It began with man in innocence in the Garden of Eden. There was perfect environment. God provided everything that man needed. They were provided for them in grace and man rejected this provision. This age lasted for 2,000 years and there was one language and one race.

THE AGE OF THE JEWS

This age began with a man called Abraham and goes down to Christ. It too lasted 2,000 years but there were many languages and many races. It is divided into The Patriarchs, The Law, and The Tribulation. The last seven years of this age will come after the Church Age is over.

THE AGE OF THE CHURCH

This is the age we are living in and it has been running from Pentecost down to the present. How much longer it will be no one knows. It will run until the body of Christ is completed and then the Body will be taken to Heaven and then the Tribulation will begin. In this age we have the completed Canon of Scripture. The pre-canon period was from 30 to 96 A.D. The post-canon period runs from 96 A.D. down to the present.

Now there is one more house that should be added--

THE AGE OF CHRIST

This is after the Tribulation and will last for 1,000 years and Christ will reign over this era personally. Satan will be chained for this period. There will be perfect environment in the earth.

Next we read "is builded" and this is a present, passive, indicative of "kataskeuazo" and means to construct and furnish. So we keep building our little houses--it says here "by the agency of someone." So it is like saying Moses or Joseph or Abraham or Daniel or Isaiah or Jeremiah--they all were building houses. Now we have the big contrast--"But" and the "de" sets up the contrast. Now we have an aorist, active, participle of "kataskeuazo." Jesus Christ is the subject here and the object is "all things" and it means history, it means dispensations, it means the universe.

Then we have the word "God" with no definite article in front of it. No definite article is here to emphasize the quality of the one doing the building.

So this verse says, "But every house is constructed and furnished by the agency of someone. But the one (Christ) constructing and furnishing all things, God."

So put these two verses together now and we have this--

"For example, this one and only this one, Jesus Christ, has been permanently evaluated deserving of more glory than Moses, by so much as the one having constructed and furnishing the house keeps on having more honour than the house. For every house is constructed and furnished by the agency of someone, like Moses; but the one (Christ) constructing and furnishing all things, God."

So Jesus Christ is God. They are one and the same.

Summary

1. Jesus Christ is the author of the dispensations. Hebrews 1:2
2. Jesus Christ is the only CELEBRITY, Moses is one of many heroes. Always make a distinction between heroes and CELEBRITY.
3. Jesus Christ is the unique person of the universe, the only CELEBRITY. He is God. He is High Priest. He will be King and his part in the plan was the cross.
4. In doctrine there are many great heroes, but one CELEBRITY. Hebrews was written to get people to recognize the fact that Jesus Christ is the one CELEBRITY. Hebrews 12:1-2
5. Moses is a hero in the house of grace, but Christ is the one who constructed and furnished the house.
6. In the history of grace, many heroes but one CELEBRITY who is the source of grace. We tasted this grace when we were first saved.

HEBREWS 3:5 "And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;" The words "and Moses" are in the emphatic position. Moses was one of the greatest super-grace believers of all time. If you have to pick from the Scriptures the three greatest men of all time, I suppose you would pick Abraham, Moses and Paul and probably next Daniel or Jeremiah or Isaiah. The writer of Hebrews uses Moses here as a great faith illustration. "Moses and only Moses" is the emphasis in this passage. In the Age of The Gentiles, God used men like Adam and Seth and Methuselah and Noah. In the Age of Israel, God used men like Abraham and Joseph and Moses and Joshua and David. In the Church Age, God used apostles and Paul and now is using pastor-teachers. But in this verse Moses is the man and he is a noble servant. The word "verily" is from "men" and means Moses with great emphasis on Moses. The word "faithful" is from "Pistos" with emphasis on dependability. He was dependable, trustworthy. "En plus oikos" refers to his house and it refers to the Age of Israel. When Abraham crossed the river into Canaan, the Age of Israel really began. Abraham to Joseph to Moses and then on to Christ--

this is the house being mentioned here. So under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the writer of Hebrews picked Moses out as the hero to be used as an illustration. No one has ever had a more positive attitude toward doctrine than Moses.

Because of this characteristic, God was able to give him the law in written form and because of this, God could commit to him the writing of the first five books of the Bible. The two most positive toward doctrine throughout all history were Moses in the Old Testament and Paul in the New Testament. The House Of Israel, set aside now for a time while the Church Age takes the stage, will be completed with the seven-year Tribulation period. Moses was the greatest hero in the Age of Israel. We read, "Moses longed to see our day" and this refers to Church Age doctrine and the infilling of the Holy Spirit which Moses was not permitted to see. (I mean by "see" he didn't live in it or experience it.)

We can learn something important from this. From his childhood on he was described as being one of the most beautiful, most handsome. He was one of the strongest men physically that ever lived. (Michael Angelo was correct in his great statue when he depicted Moses as being a massive, very strong man.) He had something far greater than physical strength and physical beauty. He had a magnificent soul. He was a super genius. He was a musical genius. He wrote the songs they sang at the crossing of the Red Sea and the songs they sang in the desert. He was a military genius. He was an engineering genius and built great cities in Egypt. Moses did for the Egyptian Empire what Julius Caesar did for the Roman Empire and what Napoleon did for France. There is no place where the administration of Moses broke down except when he struck the rock. Moses could out think most men. By God's own declaration, Moses was the meekest man that ever lived.

NUMBERS 12:3 "(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)"

But it was only when Moses became a super-grace man that God was able to use him to the maximum.

Moses was a literary genius. But grace is the thing that made Moses the great world influence that he became. Please remember that God does not use human talent and ability, but rather accomplishments come in a man's work by his positive attitude toward doctrine.

The two greatest men that ever lived beside Jesus Christ were both Jews Moses and Paul.

Doctrine To The Maximum

If Bible doctrine becomes your life, then you can become something fantastic. No one except Moses and Paul ever came close to exploiting the greatness of God's grace. Doctrine made Moses a fantastic world leader. Moses always had time for Bible doctrine.

Then this verse says "as a servant" but the word is not "doulos" but rather "Therapon" and this is the only time it is used and means a noble servant. He was a slave to Jesus Christ and this was manifest in many ways. Now, potentially, all of you can be a Moses, but you have to thirst for doctrine as Moses did. There is neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek when it comes to doctrine. Every believer should set his face on super-grace. But you can't come to church once a week and make it. Bible doctrine is here to stay and there is no substitute for it.

Next we read in this verse the words "for a testimony" and the words are "eis" plus the accusative singular of "marturion" and it means "for evidence." Moses is evidence concerning the importance of entering the super-grace life.

The phrase "of those things which were to be spoken after" and this is a genitive plural future, passive, participle of "laleo" and it really means "of things being communicated in the future." So Moses here received commendation as evidence and if you ever go negative toward doctrine, then Moses is used as evidence against you.