



“BEST” SHOULD BE BETTER THAN “BETTER”....

BUT...WHO WOULD BE “BETTER” THAN THE “BEST”?

A play on words: “A humorous way of using a word or phrase so that more than one meaning is suggested : a pun.”

Jesus, better than the best the world has to offer!!

Ecclesiastes 7:8, “Finishing is better than starting. Patience is better than pride.” (NLT)

Hebrews 3:1-6, “Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. 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,” bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as the Son over God’s house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.”

Greater than the Greatest!

The basis of the writer’s thought as he was writing this to the Hebrews was that the supreme revelation of God comes through Jesus Christ...and that only through Him can we have real access to God.

Proof of this (according to the writer):

- **Jesus was superior to the prophets**
- **Jesus was superior to the angels...and now,**
- **Jesus is superior to Moses.**

God has made Jesus High Priest of our confession (in whom we confess, NIV)

For the Jews, Moses held a place which was utterly unique.

Unique in that:

- **He was the man with whom God had spoken face to face as with a friend**
- **He was the direct recipient of the Ten Commandments, the very law of God.**

The greatest thing in all the world for the Jews was the law, and Moses and the law were one and the same thing.

*Moses was faithful in all his house...a quote from Numbers 12:6-8
The Jews held Moses greater than the prophets...and now, there is
one superior to Moses.*

Wow...Fix your eyes on Jesus! The author and finisher of our faith.

One more thing...

When we are sharers (partakers of) in the heavenly calling (as spoken in Hebrews), we cannot forget the meaning...

This calling has a double meaning for the Christian:

1. *A calling from heaven*
2. *A calling to heaven.*

Or,

1. *It is a voice which comes from God*
2. *It is a voice that calls us to God.*

Still more to this double meaning...

Demanding concentrated attention because of its:

1. *Origin...(from God)*
2. *Destination...(to heaven).*

“Fixing” our eyes on Jesus...With all our attention on Jesus!

What do we mean:

TWO THINGS:

1. *We see the great apostle in Jesus*

The writer to the Hebrews gives honor to one as an apostle...

“Apostolos” means... one who is sent forth.

To the Jews...used to describe the envoys of the Sanhedrin, the Supreme Court of the Jews. The Sanhedrin sent out apostoli who were clothed with its authority and the bearers of its commands. Greek ...it means, ambassador.

- ❑ *Paul...and ambassador as a Sanhedrin, Acts 9:1,2*
- ❑ *Paul, “For I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might speak the gospel boldly as I should...” Ephesians 6:20*
- ❑ *Paul, “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ”.... 1 Corinthians 5:20*

Ambassadors have two supremely important and relevant characteristics:

1. *They carry all the authority of the one who sends them.*
2. *The voice with which ambassadors speak is the voice of the individual or country that sent them.*

Jesus...the supreme ambassador of God.

2. *We see the great High Priest in Jesus.*

This idea will return again and again in the Book of Hebrews.

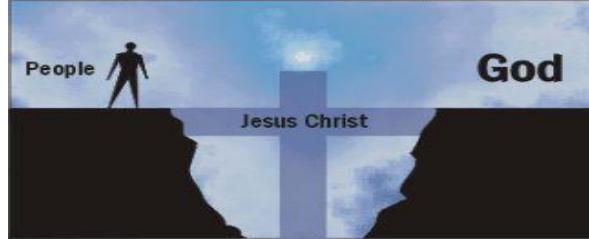
Basis idea: Latin...for priest is “pontifex”

Pontifex...means “Bridge-Builder”

The priest is the person who builds a bridge between men and women and God.

To do this, the priest must know both human nature and God, and must be able to speak to God for men and women and in turn speak to them for God.

Jesus is the perfect high priest because He is perfectly human and perfectly God; He can represent us to God and God to us.



He is the one person through whom we come to God and God comes to us. Jesus is the creator of the house in which we live...the world. Moses is like the house God built...We are partakers/users of God's house....But... Jesus is the builder...the Rock on which we can confidently stand on in storms, in calamities, in the direst of circumstances.

HE IS THE BRIDGE IN WHICH WE MUST CROSS...TO GLORY!

Jesus is superior over Moses??

This would have been a statement that would have caused the Sanhedrin to declare the speaker or the one doing the talking...a “blasphemer.”

But...this epistle or letter was written to Messianic Jews (those Jews that had accepted the fact that Jesus was the Messiah)! Still...they did not like Moses' name to be demoted to a lesser state than what they had been taught all their life.

“House” used here in a double sense again...

A building...and a family!

The Greeks used it as a double sense also... “oikos” meaning:

The world is God's house....we are God's family.

Jesus...Creator of the Universe. Therefore, the builder is greater than the house itself.

Moses did not create the law; he only passed it on to the people.

Moses did not create the house; he only served in it.

Moses was the servant in the house that Jesus built.

Therefore...No doubt about it...Jesus is superior to Moses!

God's family (house)...is the Church!

We, as God's family, His house...is strong only if we have as the “Cornerstone” ...Jesus, God's Son...faithful over God's house (people making up the Church).

Hebrews 3:7-19, “So, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of

testing in the wilderness, where your ancestors tested and tried me, though for forty years they saw what I did. That is why I was angry with that generation; I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways. 'So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.' "See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness? And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief."

Now...the Holy Spirit speaks: AND...When He speaks...we better listen!

If you listened to E.F. Hutton...You probably lost your shirt in the stock market over the last 3 years.

"Listen"...or "Hear"...or "Hearken" used over 750 times in the Word of God.

WARNING! WARNING! WARNING!

- SINNING BRINGS UNHAPPY AND UNDESIRING CONSEQUENCES...**
- OBEDIENCE BRINGS LIFE...AND THE DESIRED CONSEQUENCES CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE SEEKING.**

In other Words, God's chosen people wandered around in the desert for 40 years...their bones in the desert prove it! God means business...

DISOBEDIENCE CAN CAUSE EXTREME NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES!

THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO ENTER INTO CANAAN...GOD'S LAND OF PLENTY...BECAUSE THEY DISOBEDIED.

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

Instead....Encourage and lift up one another...as long as it is day! (v. 13)

If this is not a warning and a call for the Church to get out of their apathy and lazy ways of living their "so called" Christian life.

WE HAVE SUCH A GREAT HIGH PRIEST THAT WANTS TO GIVE YOU HEAVEN IF WE WILL FAITHFULLY FULFILL YOUR CALLING!

