

Hebrews 3:1-19 – June 6, 2021

Is It All About Jesus?

JD Farag

Good morning and welcome to our second service on Sunday mornings. The first service is our Bible Prophecy Update, and the second service is our verse-by-verse study through God's Word. We find ourselves today in the book of Hebrews, the amazing book of Hebrews, and chapter 3, the entirety, Lord willing, of the chapter verses 1-19. We encourage you to turn there if you're not there already. For those of you that are here, if you're able, I will ask you to stand. You can follow along as I read. If not, where you're seated is fine.

The writer of Hebrews by the Holy Spirit verse 1 says, "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. He was faithful to the one [verse 2] who appointed Him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. For every house [verse 4] is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. 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.

So [verse 7] 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 [verse 11] 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 [verse 13] 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 [verse 14] 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 [verse 16] 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 [verse 18] to whom did God swear that they would never enter His rest if not to those who disobeyed? And verse 19 lastly, which really spills into chapter 4, Lord willing, next week. "So we see that they were not able to enter because of their unbelief."

I think that self-explanatory. Should I just close in prayer? Let's pray. Lord, we have before us a chapter here in Your Word that requires the Holy Spirit to give us eyes of understanding. Unless You open this up to us and bless this to our understanding, we're going to miss what it is that You have for us here today, and that's why we're here today, Lord. We're here because we want to hear You speak into our lives. Lord, we know that there are things You want to say to us, there are things You want to show to us, and we want to have eyes to see. We want to have ears to hear, and we want to have hearts to receive so that we don't leave this, Your church, today the same way we came to this, Your church, today. Do that which only You can; we pray in Jesus' name. Amen and amen. You can be seated, thank you.

I would like to ask and answer this question: Are our Christian lives really all about Jesus? I mean, we know it. We say it, we sing it. It's all about You, right? We post it. Pastors preach it. But is it? I think we'd all do well to consider this as we go through this very interesting chapter. I say interesting because the writer of Hebrews refers to Moses, who points to Jesus, and in so doing presents us with four such questions in this regard.

Please know before we jump into this that these are questions that I ask of myself as well. Verses 1-6 have the first question: Are my thoughts fixed on Jesus? Here we're told that our heavenly calling is that of fixing our thoughts on Jesus, whom we have acknowledged as, very important, our apostle and high priest. Now, why? Well, the reason is that Jesus was found worthy of greater honor than

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Moses, who, as the writer of Hebrews reminds us, was just the builder of the house. What house? Oh, I'm glad you asked. You asked, right? It's important to understand that the writer of Hebrews is referring to the tabernacle, and Moses was commanded to build the tabernacle exactly, precisely, specifically as God commanded him to for a reason, and we're going to see why.

I say it this way because of the specific detail, I mean down to the color of the thread of the curtains, the measurements, the size, the arrangement, the structure, the height, the width, the breadth, everything down to the most minute detail was a picture of the person of Jesus Christ. Not only was it a picture of Christ, even more specifically, the tabernacle was also a picture of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

I want to show you an image that I had to go back into my archives when we were in our verse-by-verse study through the books of Exodus and Numbers. You'll notice that there are three sections. This is the picture of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. There are also seven furnishings, seven, the number of completion. They are arranged in the shape of a cross as a picture, a type, a prophecy if you prefer of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Every detail about the tabernacle and subsequently the temple pointed to and was fulfilled by the person of Jesus Christ.

The book of Numbers, I have to say it was probably one of my favorite books in all of the Bible. It's unfortunate because the book of Numbers gets a lot of bad press because of just the name of the book, Numbers, boring. Anything, but! The book of Numbers is one of the most fascinating books in all of the Bible! What is the book of Numbers about? Wait for it - numbers! Really?

Why is that important? Oh, because we need to know about the numbers of the Israelites. We need to know the numbers of the camp of the Israelites, and we're told these numbers in the book of Numbers. Not only was the tabernacle itself a picture of the cross, so too was the formation of the camps of the Israelites with the tabernacle in the center also a picture of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

In Numbers 2, we have this list of the numbers. I mean, you read through it and try to pronounce the names of these people first, and then you kind of look at all these numbers, and you ask yourself the question: Why do I need to know this? Well, what we know to be true is that every word in God's Word is there for a reason and is, therefore, our instruction, our rebuke sometimes, if need be, but it's there for a reason, and we're going to see the reason in just a moment.

We're told specifically that the 12 tribes of Israel were to divide into four groups of three tribes each, camped to the north, to the south, to the east, and to the west. We're even told the numbers of the totals of these camps. They are listed here; I won't go through them. I'll spare you. But when you get to Numbers Chapter 22, you understand why it is that Balaam couldn't curse the camp of the Israelites even when Balak, in all of his frustration and anger, took Balaam to a higher vantage point.

Maybe the reason why every time you try to pronounce a curse, what comes out of your mouth is a blessing instead, and not just a blessing, but I mean it is a glorious blessing, and I am paying you big bucks to curse these people who are growing in numbers. That will be the last time I mention numbers. Actually, not really, one more time, maybe.

He takes him up to this higher vantage point, and he tries to pronounce a curse on the camp of the Israelites. But we just got done being told how they were numbered and formed, and the formation of the camp of the Israelites and their numbers. We're also told that the tabernacle was right smack in the middle of that camp in that formation in the shape of a cross. "There is therefore now no condemnation [Romans 8:1, no curse, no guilt] for those that are in Christ Jesus." He could not curse them because it was a type, a foreshadow, a formation, a prophecy of the coming Savior of the world

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who would go to a Roman cross before a Roman cross had ever even been thought of. There He would die for the sins of mankind and have His blood shed in our stead and pay in full. That's why.

So, you start in Genesis 1:1, and you go all the way through to the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi. If you're Italian, you can call him Malachi as some do; that's fine. Every single book, every single chapter in every single book, every single verse, you find that it's all about Jesus. It points to Jesus. It paints a picture of Jesus even when the high priest and the priest go in to do the service there in the tabernacle and then subsequently in the temple. It was all about Jesus. The wave offering. Don't think of it as we do, the wave, do the wave. It wasn't like that. The priest was to take the offering and wave it north, south, east, west, shape of a cross.

In Exodus, the plagues, that tenth plague, the firstborn son would die unless there was the blood of a lamb that had been inspected for four days, the number of days that Jesus was on trial and found to be without sin, without blemish, without spot, without wrinkle. On that tenth day, at the exact hour that Jesus was crucified, they would take, and they would slay that lamb. They would break his skin, body, and out would come the blood. They would take that blood, and they would put it on the doorpost of their house, the top, the bottom was the basin, the left, and the right, in the shape of a cross, so that when the angel of death came, they would not perish but be saved. Why? Because the angel of death would pass over them. Why? Because they had the blood of the lamb. Everything points to the person of Jesus Christ.

John 1:14, "And the Word [Jesus] was made flesh and dwelt [keyword, tabernacled] among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." Now, when we get to Hebrews Chapters 8 and 9, we're going to learn more about and go more in-depth concerning the significance of the tabernacle.

But I want you to listen to verse 5 of Hebrews 8. "They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." It has to be precise because it is a copy, a picture, a type. This other image... Yeah, maybe I will go back to it; why not? Live on the edge. Just really quick, indulge me.

When you get to the book of Revelation, we're told about the four living creatures before the throne, and they are just, "Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb." Do you realize that is a picture of what it is going to be like in Heaven? He will be at the center, and you've got four living creatures. You go into the study of the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John; they are all a picture of this scene. This is a copy. It's a foreshadow of exactly what it's going to be like in Heaven. I can't wait.

Okay, what's your point, Pastor? Maybe you're asking, do you even have a point? I do; I actually do have a point. Here's the point. Every time the Israelites were at the tabernacle, their thoughts were to be fixed on the Lord. Everything that was done in the tabernacle, the arrangement of the tabernacle, the construction of the tabernacle, everything was to put their thoughts on the Lord.

This is Isaiah 26:3. "You will keep him in perfect peace [perfect peace], whose mind is stayed on You because he trusts in You." Happy is the man; happy is the woman whose mind is stayed on the Lord. Sometimes we let our minds get away with things, don't we? We let our minds run away and get away. We think on other things, and what will always ensue when we do? Fear, anxiety, worry, confusion, consternation. I mean, the list can go on and on. But when my mind is fixed on Him, settled, anchored on Him, what was your problem again? He will keep you in perfect peace.

I think about what the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, Philippians Chapter 4; it's recorded in verses 6-8. It is actually the cure for worry. If you're a worrier, this is the cure for worry. You don't want to worry? You'll worry about no thing if you thank God for anything and pray about everything, and when you do, the peace of God which transcends human understanding kind of goes

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over your head, past your mind, and it keeps your heart and mind in perfect peace in Christ. Then when you get to verse 8, he says something very interesting. He says, "Whatsoever things are, think on these things," and he lists them. If your mind is on these things, and you're thinking on these things? Perfect peace, perfect peace.

In our update, we're going to talk about it again today; you have this reference to these 12 spies that Moses caved under pressure and sent out to spy out the land that God had already given them. What? You need to check it up to see if what I'm telling you is true or not? Don't you believe Me? It's a land flowing with milk and honey. I promised you I'm giving you this land; just go take it. No, we'd better go check it out first just to be sure, play it safe. I mean, after all, who knows what's there. I think about how we're so prone to think on those giant Amalekites, Anakites in the land that God promised us, and they become so big that our God becomes so small. Isn't it true that the more you think on and look at the problem, the bigger it gets? Oh, come on.

Our minds have this ability to manufacture the most horrific of scenarios. I mean, we will go as far down this road, this horror movie, as our minds can. The next thing you know, I mean, we're paralyzed with fear. But the other conversely is true as well. The more you look at God, the bigger He gets, and the smaller your problems become, and that's why the writer of Hebrews wants to remind them to fix their thoughts on Jesus.

Our second question is in verses 7-12. We go from the mind to the heart. The question is: Is my heart turned toward Jesus? Now, here the writer of Hebrews draws our attention to the voice of the Holy Spirit and our propensity to harden our hearts in rebellion. He exhorts us to see to it [and this is interesting] that none of us have a sinful, unbelieving heart that results in our turning away from the living God, a hard heart. To me, this speaks to the paramount importance of guarding our hearts so that we're not led astray by that which can [listen] steal our hearts.

Let me explain. The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy. He will introduce something to steal our affection. We begin to now look at this thing, turn our hearts toward this thing, and in so doing now, that becomes the object of the affection of our heart.

In Matthew 6:21, one of the most powerful statements ever uttered from the mouth of the Savior Himself. Listen to what He says. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Notice it is not where your heart is; there will your treasure be also. No! Is that where your treasure is? I know where your heart is then because your heart is going to be wherever your treasure is.

This is why He says, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven where moth and rust do not destroy, where thief does not break in and steal." Don't lay up for yourselves treasures on earth because if your treasure is here on earth, then that's where your heart will be also. I wonder sometimes; this is one of those times. I'll speak for myself as well. Where I think we would do well to allow, the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and see if there be anything at all that's keeping us from loving Him, hearing Him, knowing Him. I'm talking about where the Lord is the "Master Passion" of your life. The Lord has your heart wholeheartedly, as we're going to talk about more in a moment.

Question number 3 in verses 13-19. This is a biggie. Do I encourage others in Jesus? If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the most powerful displays of one's life being all about Jesus, this would be it. The reason is that encouraging others in the Lord is evidence of our love for the Lord and our lives being all about the Lord.

But here again, it works both ways. Conversely, discouraging others is evidence of our unbelief, which is why the writer of Hebrews refers to what happened at Kadesh-Barnea. What happened there? Oh, very interesting, Numbers 32 beginning in verse 8. "This is what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh-Barnea to look over the land. After they went up to the Valley of Eshkol and viewed the land, [listen], they discouraged the Israelites from entering the land the Lord had given

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them. The Lord's anger was aroused that day, and He swore this oath: 'Because they have not followed Me wholeheartedly, not one of those who were 20 years old or more when they came up out of Egypt will see the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - not one except Caleb, son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun...'

And we're told why. It's because "they followed the Lord wholeheartedly." Their hearts were fully devoted to the Lord. Their thoughts were fully fixed on the Lord, and they encouraged others in the Lord. Sadly, their voices were drowned out by the other 10. You know what happened, right? So here they come. We talked about it in the Prophecy Update.

It's believed that it had been about two years since the exodus out of Egypt in the wilderness wandering. They arrive at this place called Kadesh-Barnea, a place of testing, and it is right on the cusp of the Promised Land. The Lord says, enter in, and they convince and pressure Moses to send some guys out first to just make sure before we do. God allowed them to, and it's a very interesting reason, by the way. Stay with me on this because the question is: Why would God allow Moses to send the 12 spies into the land that He'd already given them and was there for the taking?

Why would God allow that to happen? I am of the belief that it was to expose their unbelief. Here's why and it was actually God's grace because that generation, in their unbelief, had they entered the promised land, they would have never made it. They would have been eaten for lunch and had leftovers in their unbelief. He was really sparing them in His grace and His mercy and exposing them because there were battles. Never imagine that the Promised Land is synonymous with Heaven. It's not. There are no battles in Heaven. The Promised Land is a picture of all of the promises of God that are ours - if we would but believe. Just believe. We don't have a word for "un-faith;" we just have the word "unbelief."

I'm sorry I have to use this illustration. Again, if you have a better one, please let me know. When 7-UP wanted to enter the soda market, they had to come up with a brilliant... Okay, you already know which one I am going to use. They had to come up with a brilliant marketing strategy because Pepsi-Cola and Coca-Cola had the lion's share of the market. Here comes this new soda, this new soft drink, so what are we going to do to compete? Brilliant; we will call it "The Un-Cola." Un-cola? Yeah, there's no cola in it. All of a sudden now, I'm looking at Pepsi-Cola and Coca-Cola out of the corner of my eye because they've got the un-cola over here, and do you know it worked? They were able to capture a large segment of the market using just that brilliant strategy of un-cola. You know what an un-cola is, right? I know this is deeply profound. When you talk to somebody, they say, what did you guys learn at church today? Oh, I've learned about 7-UP, "The Un-Cola." Praise the Lord, hallelujah! I know this is deeply profound, but 7-UP as the un-cola has no cola in it. I know, right?

But just like the Christian, in unbelief, has no belief in them. I know I got there, but it took me a while. We took the scenic route on that one. Do you get the point? All of these promises are ours if we would but believe.

When those ten spies came back and drowned out the words of Caleb and Joshua, it spread like a virus of fear throughout the entire camp of the Israelites. Do you know what it cost them? Their lives. Over 600,000 men, not counting their wives, died because of their unbelief.

I want to end with this fourth question. It sort of collectively culminates from the other questions in the chapter, and it's simply this: Do I point others to Jesus?

While I certainly do have a love for Bible prophecy, I also have a love for Bible typology, and such is the case with this chapter that we have before us today. Woven into the fabric of this chapter is a typology that is so powerful, so profound concerning Moses who was a picture, a type of Jesus and points to Jesus, which is why the writer of Hebrews references Moses and Jesus as the greater than Moses.

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What I want to do is share with you - this is not exhaustive by any means - but how Moses paints a powerful prophetic picture pointing to the person of Jesus Christ.

First, Moses was a mediator because of sin and reconciled men to God. Jesus was a mediator because of sin, and He reconciled man to God.

Moses was born as a Hebrew. So too was Jesus born as a Jew.

Moses was born while the Egyptians ruled over the Jews, and Jesus was born while the Romans ruled over the Jews.

Moses was born, so Pharaoh tried to kill all of the baby boys. Jesus was born, so Herod tried to kill all of the baby boys.

Moses, we're told, was "fair" when he was born. Jesus, we're told, was the "fairest of 10,000" when he was born.

Moses was rejected by his brothers. So too, Jesus was rejected by His brethren.

Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness.

Moses fasted 40 days and 40 nights when receiving the covenant. Jesus fasted 40 days and 40 nights when He was tempted by the devil to break the covenant.

Moses became a shepherd for his father-in-law. Jesus became a Shepherd for His Father, our Heavenly Father.

Moses set them free from the bondage of Egypt. Jesus sets us free from the bondage of sin.

Moses performed miracles. So too, did Jesus perform miracles.

Moses sent out 12 to spy out the land. Jesus sent out 12 disciples to go throughout the land.

Moses had 70 elders to stand by him. Jesus had 70 men that were taught by Him.

Moses washed the feet of Aaron and his sons. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

Moses glowed on Mount Sinai. Jesus was transfigured on Mt. Hermon.

Moses constructed the tabernacle. Jesus is the fulfillment of the tabernacle.

Moses cried, "It is finished," when the tabernacle was complete. Jesus cried, "It is finished," when His work on the cross was complete.

Lastly, Moses had to die before they could enter the Promised Land. Jesus had to die before we could be born-again and enter into His rest from our works.

That's next week, Lord willing. Don't you hate it when the pastor does that? Oh, there is this - oh, got to wait. Oh, there is - can't tell you yet. Oh, it's so good. You know what that's about, right? Especially for those who maybe have loved ones, friends that are Sabbatharians?

Do you know the Sabbath rest is a rest from the works for salvation? Jesus fulfilled it. That's what he is talking about here. He fulfilled it. Jesus is our Sabbath rest from work. You see that type throughout Scripture. Yeah, it's the fourth commandment, but it was fulfilled. It was fulfilled. I might as well as I already opened up this can of spread, so bear with me, and we will try to bring it in for a landing. Lord, give me a runway to bring this thing in for a landing.

So, very interesting; in creation, six days. The Lord created the heavens and earth and the sea and all that in them is. And on the seventh day, He rested. Was he tired? No. He rested on the seventh day. The manna: Six days. Every morning, that manna was fresh. Boy, those guys, those hoarders, [you know who they are, they have television shows about them], tried to gather extra just in case God did not pull through, and it turned to maggots except on the sixth day. There was enough for the seventh day, so they would rest from their works. A picture of, a type of the Sabbath rest from our works because we're saved by grace through faith, not of works, lest any man should boast. That's what the Sabbath is all about. The Sabbath, never mind, I'm not going to... I'm so sorry. There is so much. You'll have to be here next week. ...I do want to bring it to a close, though.

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As I prepare these teachings and certainly the Prophecy Updates, I always, in my time with the Lord, ask myself a series of questions before the Lord. It's almost like a template of sorts that I have to superimpose upon that which I'm going to teach.

By the way, I cannot impart that which I do not possess. In other words, I cannot teach it unless I myself first own it. Pray for me. I have to own this; otherwise, I'm just up here as a talking head. I'm just talking out of a book and not from the heart as one who has tasted from this cup.

I have to say that we're living in a day, and I think you would agree with me when I say this, like never before in human history where we have to get Jesus to people and people to Jesus as quickly as we possibly can. I'm telling you, and I say it every week: The Lord is coming back, and it could be any time now. With everything that is happening in the world now, it is exactly as we were told it would be at the time of the end, and it's happening. It's really happening, and Jesus is coming. He is really coming.

He promised He would, and God cannot break a promise. He's given us His word. That's why we call it His Word. If I say to you, I give you my word, I'm making a promise, and I give you my word. God says I've given you, My Word. Do you know how many promises are in here? He has given us His Word.

There's one promise, in particular, I want to leave you with. He made a promise and gave the disciples in that Upper Room His word that He was going to go to prepare a place in his Father's house where there are many dwelling places. He said if it were not so, I would not have promised you. I would not have told you. I'm going to prepare this place for you because I'm going to come back and get you and take you to that place that I prepared for you, so that where I am, there you may be also. That's the rapture.

That's a bridegroom speaking to His bride whom he's engaged to, saying to her we're now officially engaged; this is the betrothal. I'm going to go build a room addition, a bridal chamber on my Father's house. I'm going to finish it, and when I'm done with it, I'm going to come back, and I'm going to get you like a thief in the night. And I'm going to snatch you away. I'm going to take you away, and I'm going to take you to that place that I prepared for you. We're going to celebrate, and we're going to consummate our marriage together for a period of seven, the number of completion.

Then it even gets better. He promised. He's given us His Word. So, after the seven, we're going to emerge from this place that He prepared for us, this bridal chamber. We're going to have a huge wedding feast, the Wedding Supper of the Lamb. That's what I'm talking about. Guys, food in Heaven, baby! I mean, no calories, no cholesterol, no fat, no nothing. Man! We are going to feast with Him as His bride by His side. If it were not so, He would not have made that promise to us, and that promise that He's given to us, His word that He's given to us is going to happen, I believe at any time now! Would to God that our lives would be all about Jesus.

Would you stand, please? We'll have the worship team come up and close in prayer. Loving Heavenly Father, I don't think there's one of us here today in this Your church or even watching online that doesn't want to be numbered amongst those of whom it could be said, man, they are like Jesus! They are Christlike! They are like Jesus! They have been with Jesus. They are pointing me to Jesus. Their lives are all about Jesus; Lord, may we be those of whom it can be said. For it's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.