

But we see Jesus. God made Adam in His image, in anticipation of His Son becoming a Man, the true Image, for the suffering of death. Four thousand years later He did just that. Having been the suffering Man while here upon earth the Lord Jesus became qualified for priesthood. Becoming that, He was tasked with making reconciliation for the sins of the people. Then He became occupied with helping His own that are tempted. The believers are characterized as holy brethren! They profess to belong to Him intending to follow Him. We are to consider Him. He is the Apostle and High Priest of our profession. ("Apostle" means "sent one," sent as a delegate or ambassador.) The Lord Jesus was God's official Delegate sent on the specific mission to redeem fallen men, to reclaim and restore the fallen creation, and to subject all to God. (When He has completely accomplished this He will deliver all up to God, 1Corinthians 15:24-28.) Being also God's High Priest He enables the approach of man to God, man's communion with God, God's communion with man and loving fellowship of the saints with one another.

The Man Christ Jesus was given a charge by God to fulfill. He was to come and build and establish God's House replacing that house which Moses had previously established. Moses' house was not simply the Tabernacle in the wilderness, it was the whole earthly order He established among the Children of Israel. All of it. All that was laid out so thoroughly in the Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy) written by Moses. The Law of Moses, which ruled Israel for fourteen centuries, was ultimately fulfilled by the Lord Jesus, Matthew 5:18.

Moses was an eminent and crucial historical figure to the Jews. He, along with Abraham and David, represented the foundation and framework of their earthly existence and heritage. They were great men of God, guided by God and serving Him. Moses was **the authority** appealed to in every question of righteousness and ritual. There was none higher for he was the leader of the Exodus and giver of the Law and the founder of the nation under God. The Law was consistently called "the Law of Moses." "Moses was faithful in all his house." Who could replace him? Who could supercede him in the esteemed position God had given him? Who rightly deserved more respect than they rightly gave him? Who indeed? This Man, who is God's Apostle and High Priest of our profession (of our confession), He is counted worthy of more glory than Moses? The Lord Jesus Christ? Yes, He is counted worthy of more glory than Moses! How? Why? Because, while Moses was a faithful servant in building the house of Israel, this Man as Son over His own house builds the house of God. It rose from the ruins, so to speak, of the house Moses established. That house fell, not because it was weak in itself, but because the people in it were weak, sinful in nature. They could not keep the house in the holiness required by God.

Psalm 93:5 holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever.

Even Moses failed, losing his temper and striking the

rock when commanded to only speak to it the second time. He was not permitted to enter the promised land with Israel even after faithfully leading and governing them for forty years in the wilderness. When the Lord Jesus was born the house remaining in the land bore only a superficial resemblance to the house Moses built for God. It was characterized by an unbelieving, unfaithful priesthood (the Sadducees) collaborating with the Roman Occupation, and a cadre of devoutly religious followers of the Law (the Pharisees), albeit freely adding to it, imposing on the people many burdens never contemplated in the Law of Moses. No wonder the Lord rebuked them, Matthew 23:4. Neither Moses nor the Law given through him was deficient. It was the sinful, rebellious hearts of Adam's race that could not be controlled. God in giving the Law had proven this. *Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

It was time to do something more. **He sent His Son.** This One, this only begotten, one and only Son would build the House of God. This Man is counted more worthy even than Moses, a momentous declaration to any Jew! The Lord Jesus is superior to Moses! He is Son! He is Christ, Messiah! He would build His own house. It is us, "Whose house are we." Not a house fathered by natural descendants of men of faith, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, which became a mixture of men of faith and not of faith. That house was being set aside for it crucified His Son. It even refused His offer of mercy after He rose, ascended and was enthroned on God's right hand in heaven. Israel has been displaced as the House of God. Now God's house is the Assembly, the Church, comprising Jews and Gentiles who have trusted in the shed blood of the only perfect Sacrifice for sins.

Yet even the revelation of this house, built by the Lord Himself, is accompanied by warnings to some who may not really belong. Some, having joined with the believers, had not really personally trusted in the Lord as their Savior. They mixed in like the opportunist mixed-magnitude of Gentile fellow slaves that left Egypt with Israel on the Passover night. Nor were even all the Jews who celebrated the first Passover men of faith. But the faithful were stumbled by the murmuring and whining of the unbelievers in their midst and fell into an attitude of unbelief with them. How easy to be carried away by those we become associated with. Hence the repeated faithful warnings issued by the Spirit throughout scripture and particularly in Hebrews. God's dire faithful warnings to those in the wilderness are repeated here for our benefit. History was about to repeat itself if they were not vigilant. Here we are, 19 centuries later. It is indeed repeating. Take heed, hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. By Ron Canner, December 10, 2008