

The Son Stands Alone

Hebrews 3:1—6

Introduction

Remember the old children's song, "The Farmer in the Dell?" The farmer takes a wife; the wife takes the child; the child takes the nurse; the nurse takes the cow; the cow takes the dog; the dog takes the cat; the cat takes the rat; the rat takes the cheese; and the cheese stands alone. The cheese left standing alone is the person who is left by themselves in the song/game. He or she is the loser of the game. On the Mount of Transfiguration, as soon as the Father says, "*This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!*" (**Luke 9:35**) Jesus is left standing alone. Moses and Elijah are gone. The vision is over. But what does it mean that the Son stands alone?

The Purpose of Moses and Elijah

Why did Moses and Elijah show up at Jesus' Transfiguration? Of course, Moses represents the Law and Elijah the prophets. Just before the Transfiguration, Jesus had foretold His death for the first time (**Luke 9:21—22**). Then, He told His disciples how they are to take up their cross and follow Him (**v. 23—27**). As He gets closer to the cross, Moses and Elijah show up to testify to what He is doing, fulfilling the Law and the Prophets, as He said in the Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 5** (see **Matthew 5:17**). Though they were talking to Jesus *about His departure* (**Luke 9:31**), they are not reassuring Him. He doesn't need that. Their purpose was to witness to the disciples about Him. That's what the Law and Prophets do.

The Son Is Greater Than Moses

The writer to the Hebrews tells us that *Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself* (**Hebrews 3:3**). For all his authority and all his greatness as the Lawgiver, Moses was a servant in the house. Everything he told the people he merely relayed from God. John says in the beginning of his Gospel (read **John 1:1—5**). Jesus is the Son of God; He is God (read **Matthew 7:28—29**). Jesus spoke and taught with authority because He is the God who gave the Law.

The Son Builds the Church

The house of God in Old Testament times was Israel, God's chosen people. Since Jesus' death and resurrection, God's house is the church. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, builds the church. As the One who died on the cross, He is the Founder and Creator of the church. But by His Spirit and through His Word, He calls people together to become part of His church, continuing to build it throughout history, until He comes again. He is the Builder of the house.

The Son Is Our Confidence

The writer to the Hebrews says: *We are His house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope* (**Hebrews 3:6**). Ephrem the Syrian, 4th Century writer of commentaries and devotional hymns, said: "*We are of His house if we stand firm in His confidence*" and are not brought into disorder while "*in the glory of His hope.*" But if we transgress, we cause His suffering

(Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews). Christ is our confidence. Standing alone, Christ is the one in whom we place our trust. Nothing in this world can compare to Him. Nothing in this world can defeat us as long as we trust in Him. In **Matthew 7**, Jesus tells us how the wise man built his house on the rock, and it withstood the storm. Having confidence in Jesus isn't about turning to Him when the going gets tough. It's about building your life on Him day in and day out, so you can remain confident during the storms of life.

The Son Is Our Hope

Standing confidently in Christ, He is our hope. This hope is the assurance of a future reality. We know we will live forever with Him because He said so and because of His resurrection. The Son of God who died for the forgiveness of our sins, defeated death by His death on the cross, and by His resurrection, He gives us eternal life. Praise God that **THE SON STANDS ALONE!**

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
