**PREFIGURING OF JESUS (#2)**

***Jesus & Moses***

I’ve been reading my Bible since I was knee-high to a grasshopper. Mrs. Ann Howell was my Bible class teacher when I was six years old. She gave me my first little Bible. I treasured that Bible, and used it, until I graduated from high school. I can still remember all the color paintings that were scattered throughout it. In particular I can vividly recall the powerful portrait of Moses coming down from Mount Sinai holding the tablets of stone containing the Ten Commandments over his head. Down below were the people of Israel worshiping the golden calf. Moses looked fierce with anger as he was about to cast the stone tablets to the ground. His long white hair was blowing in the wind and his muscular arms made him look like Zeus on Mt. Olympus.

Turning my little Bible toward the other end I saw another painting. This one was of another man on a mountain. He also had his arms stretched out. But his eyes were not fierce, only sorrowful. His body was not muscular, only bleeding and broken. Over the next years as I read that little black Bible it did not take much thinking, even from this little six-year old boy, to connect the dots and figure out that Moses and Jesus had something in common. Indeed, as I now know after 62 years of reading that Bible, the life of Moses and the life of Jesus had so much in common it is staggering to consider. But let’s try, even with this short article.

Moses was giving one of his final speeches to the new nation of Israel when he said these immortal words: “*The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to Him*” (Deut. 18:15). I see four specific prophecies here:
1) This *Prophet* will be raised up by God.
2) This *Prophet* will come from among Israel.
3) This *Prophet* will be like Moses – a lawgiver and deliverer.
4) This *Prophet* will be worthy of hearing and obeying.

When John the Baptist was preaching in the wilderness to the huge crowds that came out to hear him they asked the Million Dollar Question: “*Are you the Prophet*?” (Jn. 1:21). This was an obvious reference to Moses’ well-known prediction. He said no. But added this insight: *“Among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie”* (verses 26–27). The very next day he pointed to Jesus and said, “*Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*” (Jn. 1:29). In other words, there is your Prophet!

In his sermon at the temple Peter affirms that Jesus is the prophet like Moses ([Acts 3:22](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%203.22), quoting [Deuteronomy 18:15](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut%2018.15)).

Stephen, addressing the Sanhedrin in [Acts 7:37](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%207.37), also quotes Moses and applies the prophecy to Jesus Christ.

Just look at the amazing similarities between Jesus and Moses.
1. They both mediated a covenant between God and men (Exo. 34:27; Heb. 9:15).

2. They both were born in perilous times, narrowly escaping a king who wanted to
 destroy all the babies that threatened their future (Exo. 1:22; Matt. 2:16-18).

3. They both had a connection to Egypt (Exo. 2:1-4; Matt. 2:13-14).

4. They both were adopted: Moses to Pharaoh (Exo. 2:10), Jesus to Joseph (Lk. 2:48).

5. They both were shepherds: Moses to sheep (Exo. 3:1), Jesus to people (Jn. 10:11-14).

6. They both were known as the meekest men on earth (Num. 12:3; Matt. 11:29).

7. They both led God’s people out of captivity with great power: Moses out of Egypt
 (Exo. 5-6); Jesus out of the bondage of sin (Lk. 4:18; Rom. 8:2).

8. They both performed many miracles, like bread in the wilderness (Exo. 16:35; Jn.
 6:1-13), in which the people immediately cried to Jesus: “*Surely this is the Prophet
 who is to come into the world*!” (Jn. 6:14).

9. They both spoke to God face to face (Exo. 33:11; Matt. 11:27; Jn. 10:15).

10. They both experienced a transfiguration while in God’s presence (Exo. 34:29-35),
 and even appeared together on the holy mount in sun-like radiance (Matt. 17:2).

11. They both interceded for the people: Moses at Mt. Sinai twice (Exo. 32:11-13, 30-32;
 Num. 11:2; 12:13; 21:7); Jesus at Mt. Calvary, and now in heaven (Rom. 5:6-8; I Jn.
 2:1; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25).

12. They both were willing to die for the people: Moses offered his life in exchange for
 the sinful Israelites (Exo. 32:32); Jesus actually gave His life for sinful men (Jn. 3:16
 Jn. 15:13; I Jn. 3:16).

In truth, I could give you more comparisons that made Moses a prefigure of Jesus. But as we read the book of Hebrews we need to also point out that Jesus was “*so much better*” than Moses in every category. Hebrews 3:1-6 shows this stark contrast:

​1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, 2 who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. 3 For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. 4 For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. 5 And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, 6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

Jesus “*has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses*,” thereby overshadowing this great man that prefigured Him. At the mount of transfiguration when Elijah and Moses stood by Jesus, God forever settled the question of superiority as He stood the prophet and the Lawgiver side by side with His Son. Singling out Jesus He proclaimed: “*This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, hear Him*!” (Matt. 17:5). In other words, we honor Moses, but we worship Jesus.

In heaven we are told we will sing the song of Moses and the Lamb (Rev. 15:3). My guess is Moses’ will be pointing to Jesus as we all sing that hymn of salvation.

I love you. - Rick