

The New and Ultimate Moses  
Exodus 24:1-3a & Matt 5:1-2a

*Ex 24:1-3a - Then he said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. <sup>2</sup> Moses alone shall come near to the LORD, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him." <sup>3</sup> Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules...*

*Matt 5:1-2a - Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them...*

This is the last sermon of the year and the final sermon of the series about Jesus in Genesis and Exodus. Since Moses wrote Genesis and Exodus and served as God's conduit for saving Israel from Egypt, it's fitting to end the series looking at how Jesus fulfils, not only the words of Moses, but replaces Moses himself.

### **First: The OT Promise**

As Israel was about to enter the Promised Land, Moses gave them his final words, recorded in the book of Deuteronomy and he promised the people that –

*"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen." (Deut 18:15).*

### **Second: The NT Fulfilment**

a) The testimony of John the Baptist

When John the Baptist appeared, many people asked him,

*"Are you the Prophet?" (John 1:21).*

But John responded,

*"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'" (Matt 1:23) and*

*"...among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup> even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie" (Matt 1:26b-27).*

This perfectly corresponds to Moses predication that the coming prophet would be *"...from among you, from your brothers..."*

And the next day, John identified Jesus as the one about whom he was speaking (Jn 1:29-31).

b) The Testimony of Peter

- 1 – Peter and John healed a lame man at the temple
- 2 – The people wanted to know how they did this
- 3 – Peter preached to them

Acts 3:13-22 – T

c) The Testimony of Stephen

- 1 – Stephen was performing miracles in Jesus's name
- 2 – He was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish court
- 3 – One part of their accusation was that

*"...we have heard him [Stephen] say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us" (Acts 6:14)*

- 3 – Stephen countered accusation by saying,

*"This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.'" (Acts 7:37).*

d) The Testimony of the Father

Matthew 17:1-9 – T

- a) Moses and Elijah are there to represent "*Moses and all the Prophets*" of Luke 24:27.
- b) They are also there to demonstrate that God is "*not God of the dead, but of the living*" (Mark 12:27). In other words, even though Moses had died, and Elijah had not, both were alive)
- c) Moses led Egypt on their exodus from Egypt. Elijah exodused from the earth in a flaming chariot.

- d) God miraculously provided bread through Moses for Israel in the wilderness, through Elijah for the widow of Zarephath and Jesus is the bread of life.
- e) But Jesus is the only one of whom the Father says, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt 17:5b)
- f) When God says, "Listen to him" (Mt 17:5c), he means, above Moses and the Prophets.

Hebrews 1:1-2 - *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,<sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son*

2 Jesus is God's final word to which all previous words point.

2 Peter 1:16-18 - *For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son,<sup>17</sup> with whom I am well pleased," <sup>18</sup> we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. [Since he's talking about the Mt. of Transfiguration where Moses, was, was he thinking of Moses' prophecy about Jesus?] <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Summary: John, the last OT prophet who appears in the NT, and Peter, one of the apostles, as well as Stephen, a deacon, and God himself, all point to Jesus as the fulfilment of Moses's promise about another, greater prophet.

### **Third: One Important Difference Between Moses and Jesus**

For all their similarities, there is at least one great difference between Moses and Jesus.

- 1 – Moses, the law giver, led Israel out of Egyptian captivity.
- 2 – Jesus too, is a law giver but also the fulfiller of the law

Matthew 5:17 - *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 – *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

*Remember when Jesus said, "For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 5:20).*

2 Corinthians 5:21 is how it does! God has credited Jesus's righteousness to you.

3- But Moses did not lead Israel into the Promised Land

*Joshua 1:1-2 - After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.*

Why couldn't Moses lead Israel into the Promised Land?

- We all know Moses sinned by striking the rock the second time....but
- Moses is a type and symbol of the law, and the law can't save us.

*Galatians 3:24-26 – "...the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith."*

The law can't save you. It simply proves we are sinners and points us to Jesus. As our guardian, it walks us to Jesus.

What does Joshua mean? It's the OT name for Jesus = *God is salvation*. It isn't Moses, who led Israel into the Promised Land but Joshua because Moses, as a type of the law, can only lead us to the Promised Person, but not into him.

**Conclusion:**

Jesus is the greater and ultimate Moses because he does what Moses could not do, he delivers us to our Promised Land.

## Community Groups

- 1 – How have you seen Jesus in Genesis and Exodus?
- 2 – What view of Jesus has been the most meaningful to you?
- 3 – Read Ex 24:1-3a and Matt 5:1-2a.
- 4 – How do you see Jesus in Moses in these verses?
- 5 – As Moses prepared to die, what promise did he make about a future prophet?
- 6 – What NT characters and texts point to Jesus as the fulfilment of this promise?
- 7 – What are some reasons Moses and Elijah appeared on the Mt of Transfiguration?
- 8 – How is Moses a type or symbol of the law?
- 8 – How is Moses unlike Jesus?
- 9 – How is Jesus better than Moses?
- 10 – Read Mt 5:17 & 2 Cor 5:21 and discuss the “righteousness of God” given you in Jesus

## Daily Devotion

**Monday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.** Read Ex 20:1-17, 24:1-3a, Mt 5:1-2a, Jn 1:14 & . Moses came down from Sinai with the law. On Mount Olivet Jesus revealed the heart of the law. What is the heart behind each of the Ten Commandments? What heart change might be necessary for you to live out the TC today?

**Tuesday, Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Read Dt 18:15; Mt 1:26b-27; Acts 3:12-22. Several NT characters pointed to Jesus as Moses’s promised prophet but the Jewish leaders chose not to believe it. Can you remember a doctrine or time when you were resistant changing your view? How did you resist? What overcame your resistance? Think about these things as you speak to others about Jesus or doctrines with which they are resistant to believe.

**Wednesday, Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Read Mt 17:1-9. Why did God choose Moses and Elijah to be on the Mount of Transfiguration? How might they have encouraged Jesus? What does the Father’s words about Jesus say about Moses and Elijah. Think about whose words you value? Do you value the words of Christ above all others? Perhaps this is a good day to begin taking Jesus at his word above your own heart, mind or the words of other influential people in your life.

**Thursday, Jan 4<sup>th</sup>.** Read Mat 5:17 & 2 Cor 5:21. How did Jesus fulfil the law? What does 2 Cor 5:21 promise? What makes you doubt your standing before God? How does 2 Cor 5:21 counter it? This is one of those situations where you need to believe the words of Jesus more than your own condemning heart or the words of others. Throughout today,

meditate on and memorize 2 Cor 5:21. Then, when condemnation 'comes calling,' lift that verse up like a shield of faith.

**Friday, Jan 5<sup>th</sup>.** Read Josh 1:1-2 & Gal 3:24-26. There is at least one great difference between Moses and Jesus, and it is seen in Moses's inability to lead Israel into the Promised Land. What great truth do you learn from this? Indeed, Jesus is the fulfilment of the OT and the central theme of the Bible. This might be a good day to read Luke 1:1-4, the text for next Sunday. Do you have certainty about all the Bible says about Jesus? Get ready to study Luke...and invite someone to church this Sunday!