

O.T. Shadows of Jesus 2: Moses – Part 1

INTRODUCTION:

1. It seems that more and more people are rejecting God as the author of the Bible, as well as Jesus being the Christ, the Son of God sent to save us from our sins.
 - A. This might be understandable if the Bible presented no signs or evidence of God's hand in its message and the events it reveals concerning His plan fulfilled in Jesus.
 - B. But that God's hand was involved can be seen by those who will consider it with an open mind.
 - C. Some of the more amazing evidence of God's authorship is found in the working out of His plan through the **O.T. types and shadows** that were **fulfilled in Jesus**.
2. That is what I want to address today—one of the types/shadows of Jesus, which in this case was cast by **Moses**.
 - A. To do that we will first look at the importance of Moses' shadow in God's plan.
 - B. Then we will consider how Moses is a type/shadow of Christ concerning His:
 - i. Birth and early life
 - ii. Characteristic humility
 - iii. Preparation to fulfill his ministry
 - C. I present this in hopes it will bring us to a greater appreciation of God's hand in the world and the divine nature of God's plan of redemption for our salvation from sin's bondage.

BODY:

- **I. Moses—An important shadow of Jesus:**
 - A. It is important because though Moses was great and his shadow significant, Jesus is shown to be far **greater** (Heb. 3:1-6 – “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider **Jesus**, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; ² **He was faithful** to Him who appointed Him, **as Moses also was in all His house**. ³ For He has been counted **worthy of more glory than Moses**, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. ⁴ For **every house is built by someone**, but the **builder of all things is God**. ⁵ Now **Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant**, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; ⁶ but **Christ was faithful as a Son over His house**—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.”).
 1. The passage connects Moses and Jesus concerning their faithfulness relating to their house.
 2. Yet, their connection presents Jesus as having **greater glory** because Moses was a **servant in His house**, while Jesus is the **builder** of that house (3:4) and the **Son over His house** (3:6)!
 - B. This Moses/Jesus relationship was prophesied **by Moses** over **1400 years before** it was to be fulfilled (Deut. 18:15, 17-19 – “The LORD your God will **raise up for you a prophet like me** from among you, from your countrymen, **you shall listen to him**....¹⁷ The LORD said to me, ‘They have spoken well. ¹⁸ **I will raise up a prophet** from among their countrymen **like you**, and I will put My words in his mouth, and **he shall speak to them all that I command him**. ¹⁹ It shall come about that whoever will not listen to **My words which he shall speak in My name**, I Myself will require it of him.”).
 - 1. What would be the point of such a prophecy if God's inspired hand was not behind it?
 - a. If Moses was a fraud seeking power and personal glory, why prophesy of someone to come that would take that power and glory from him?
 - b. It reminds me of David's statement about His Lord was told to sit at God's right hand and that He would be a “priest forever after the order of Melchizedek” (Psa. 110:4).
 - 2. Its value is as a marker, a means of pointing to and identifying the coming Messiah. And this is how Peter uses (cite Acts 3:11-26).
 - C. So, this shadow/substance relationship between Moses and Jesus is of great value in presenting Jesus' greatness, as well as providing a means by which the Messiah could be recognized!
 - D. So, we see Jesus is to be like Moses but greater in His...
- **II. Birth and early life:**
 - A. Moses:

- 1. He was born when the Israelites were **oppressed** under **Egyptian rule** (Ex. 1:13-14 – “The Egyptians compelled the sons of Israel to labor rigorously; ¹⁴ and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all kinds of labor in the field, all their labors which they rigorously imposed on them.”).
- 2. His birth came when a king wanted to **kill him** (Ex. 1:15-16, 22 – “Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other was named Puah; ¹⁶ and he said, “When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then **you shall put him to death**; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.”...²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people [Israelites], saying, “Every son who is born you are to **cast into the Nile**, and every daughter you are to keep alive.”).
- 3. Moses was **hidden** by his parents, **adopted** by Pharaoh’s daughter, and **given a special name** (Ex. 2:1-6, 10 – “Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. ² The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, **she hid him** for three months. ³ But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him. ⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it to her. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And **she had pity on him** and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children....” ¹⁰ The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter and **he became her son**. And she named him **Moses**, and said, “**Because I drew him out of the water.**”).

B. Jesus:

- 1. Like Moses, Jesus was **born** when Israel was under a foreign power, Rome, but **oppressed** by **their SIN** (Jn. 8:31-33ff.).
- 2. And like Moses, Jesus was **adopted** and **given a special name**.
 - a. Matt. 1:20-25 – “But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a Son; and **you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.**” ²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the **virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son**, and they shall call His name **Immanuel**,” which translated means, “God with us.” ²⁴ And Joseph awoke from his sleep and **did as the angel of the Lord commanded him**, and took Mary as his wife, ²⁵ but kept her a virgin until she gave **birth to a Son**; and he **called His name Jesus.**”
 - b. Lk. 3:23 – “When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, **as was supposed, the son of Joseph...**”
- 3. Like Moses Jesus was born at a time when a king wanted to **kill Him** (Matt. 2:1-3, 16 – “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of **Herod** the king, **magi** from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ² “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” ³ **When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled**, and all Jerusalem with him...¹⁶ Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the **magi**, he became **very enraged**, and sent and **slew all the male children** who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.”).
 - a. This helps us see the power Rome had over Israel that their appointed king could do this.
- 4. So, like Moses Jesus was also **hidden** by His parents **in Egypt** (Mt. 2:13-15 – “Now when they [magi] had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and **flee to Egypt**, and remain there until I tell you; for **Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.**” ¹⁴ So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for **Egypt**. ¹⁵ He remained there

until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “**Out of Egypt I called My Son.**” [Hos. 11:1]).

- C. Note the amazing similarities of the conditions of their birth and early life which Jesus had nothing to do with and most of which could have been easily debunked if false. But also note that in all these things Jesus is shown to be **greater**...
 1. In His special **name**, being called **Jesus** and **Immanuel** because **He is God** and came to **save the world from their sins!**
 2. In reason for **adoption**, seeing Jesus was born of the **virgin** Mary through the **Holy Spirit**.
 3. In reason for **leaving Egypt**, seeing Jesus’ exit **fulfilled prophecy**.

• III. Humility:

- A. Though **Moses** possessed **great honor and power**, being Israel’s deliverer required humility.
 - 1. Though Moses’ humility was great (Num. 12:3), it was **learned** by circumstance:
 - a. Moses mistakenly thought His **position** gained by being raised as **Pharaoh’s grandson** would mean Israel would see him as their deliverer (Acts 7:23-25).
 - b. His decision, however, resulted in him being **forced to flee Egypt** (Ex. 2:11-12, 15 – “Now it came about in those days, when Moses had grown up, that he went out to his brethren and looked on their hard labors; and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. ¹² So he looked this way and that, and when he saw there was no one around, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand... ¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of this matter, **he tried to kill Moses**. But **Moses fled** from the presence of Pharaoh and settled in the land of **Midian**, and he sat down by a well.”).
 - c. The humility he would possess would come over the period of **40 years in Midian**.
 - 2. These circumstances forced upon him were not the result of cowardice, but of **great faith in God** (Heb. 11:24-27 – “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. ²⁷ **By faith he left Egypt**, not **fearing the wrath of the king**; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.”).
- B. Though **Jesus** possessed **great honor and power**, His decision to become mankind’s deliverer required humility.
 - 1. Unlike Moses, Jesus’ humility was **by choice** (Phil. 2:5-8 – “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although **He existed in the form of God**, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but **emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the **likeness of men**. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death**, even death on a **cross**.”)
 - C. Though Moses had great humility, Jesus’ is shown to be **greater** in His choice to **give up the glory of heaven itself**, in **becoming a man**, and further **humbling himself in obedience** for the **purpose of dying on the cross** for our sins.

• IV. Preparation for ministry

- A. After leaving Egypt **Moses** spent much of his life in as a **lowly shepherd** in the **wilderness** of Midian.
 1. There he shepherded the flocks of Jethro, his father-in-law (Ex. 2:15; 3:1 – “When Pharaoh heard of this matter [Moses killing the Egyptian], he tried to kill Moses. But Moses **fled** from the presence of Pharaoh and **settled in the land of Midian**, and he sat down by a well... ^{3:1} Now Moses was **pasturing the flock** of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he **led the flock** to the west side of the **wilderness** and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.”).
 - a. That he became a **shepherd** of flocks is significant because earlier we learned that “**every shepherd is loathsome to the Egyptians**” (Gen. 46:33).
 - b. So, this was contrary to his raising, showing this be a **humbling** time for Moses!
 - 2. After **forty years** of humble seclusion, God appeared there to Moses and commissioned him to return to Egypt to free the Israelites (Acts 7:30-34 – “After **forty years** had passed, an angel appeared to him in the **wilderness of mount Sinai**, in the flame of a burning thorn

bush.³¹ When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look more closely, there came the voice of the Lord:³² ‘I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.’ Moses shook with fear and would not venture to look.³³ But the Lord said to him, ‘Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’³⁴ I have certainly seen the oppression of My people in Egypt and have heard their groans, and **I have come down to rescue them**; come now, and **I will send you to Egypt.**’).

- B. Like Moses, **Jesus** spent much of His life in **humble seclusion**.
 1. After leaving Egypt Jesus spent thirty years of His life in the very small city of Nazareth as a **lowly carpenter** (Mk. 6:1-3 – “Jesus went out from there and came into His **hometown**; and His disciples followed Him.”² When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands?”³ **Is not this the carpenter**, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him.”).
 - a. This time of seclusion was 30 years (Luke 3:23 – “When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about **thirty years of age**, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph...”).
 - b. Thus, like Moses His preparation for His ministry was doing the work of the humble, the common, ordinary man for a large portion of His life.
- 2. In final preparation for his ministry, in comparison to Moses Jesus spent **40 days and nights** in the **wilderness** to be **tempted by the devil** (Matt. 4:1-3ff. – “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the **wilderness** to be tempted by the devil.”² And after He had **fasted forty days and forty nights**, He then became hungry.³ And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”).
- C. Though again we see the similarities by which we can know Jesus to be the Messiah, Jesus is shown to be **greater** because:
 1. His **preparation** involved **facing the fullness of Satan’s temptation** without sinning (Matt. 4:3-11).
 2. In addition to that, Jesus is greater because this preparation was so that He could be our sympathetic **High Priest** that we might **draw near to God in confidence** and find **grace** to help (Heb. 4:14-16 – “Therefore, since we have a **great high priest** who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.”¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has **been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin**.¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”).

CONCLUSION:

1. We see an amazing thread that God has woven through the type/shadow of Moses that we might know Jesus to be the Christ and receive freedom from sin and salvation.
2. Yet, the salvation given by the Jesus is only offered to those who will submit to Him as their Lord and Savior and enter His body and kingdom through F-R-C-Bp.
 - A. If you are delaying, why put off your opportunity to be free from sin and condemnation?
 - B. If you are a Christian but have not lived as one who serves such a great Savior and High Priest, will you come confessing your sin and repenting that God might forgive you and receive you?
3. Will you come to Jesus today?