

O.T. Shadows of Christ – Moses – Pt 3

INTRODUCTION:

1. Today I want to continue, and conclude, our study of Moses as the shadow or type of Jesus the Christ.
2. This study is important because Moses prophesied that one like him would come in Israel's future (Deut. 18:15-19), which means that the life of Moses presents a shadow, or pattern, which can help us know that Jesus is the Christ, the redeemer sent by God.
3. So far we have seen this pattern in:
 - A. Their birth and early life.
 - B. Being unlikely leaders of God's people
 - C. The role of miracles in their ministries
 - D. Their role as God's lawgivers
4. Today I want to look at two final connections or similarities between them that concerns how:
 - A. Both were rejected as redeemers.
 - B. Both became intercessors on behalf of those who rejected them.
 - C. In these connections, like the others, we will see how Jesus is infinitely greater than Moses.

BODY:

I. Rejected Redeemers

- A. Both were **shepherd** sent to **redeem** Israel.

1. Moses:

- a. He had spent 40 years as a **shepherd** and was in the field when God called Him to redeem Israel (Ex. 3:1-2, 10 – “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. ² The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed...¹⁰ Therefore, come now, and **I will send you** to Pharaoh, so that **you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.**”).
- b. He proclaimed the good news of redemption to Israel (Ex. 6:7-8 – “Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will **deliver you from their bondage**. I will also **redeem** you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. ⁷ Then I will **take you for My people**, and **I will be your God**; and **you shall know that I am the LORD** your God, who **brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.**”).

2. Jesus:

- a. Like Moses, Jesus is God's **shepherd redeemer** (Jn. 10:10, 14-17 – “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly...** ¹⁴ **I am the good shepherd**, and I know My own and My own know Me, ¹⁵ even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and **I lay down My life for the sheep.** ¹⁶ I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and **they will become one flock with one shepherd.** ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves Me, because **I lay down My life so that I may take it again.**”).
 - i. Note that for Jesus to provide **life** as a **shepherd redeemer** meant willingly **laying down His life** for the sheep.
 - ii. And His life **was laid down** not just for the Jews, but for **the whole world** that **all peoples** might be **in God's flock** (10:16).
- b. Like Moses, Jesus proclaimed good news of redemption to Israel (John 8:31-36 – “So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “**If you continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will **know the truth, and the truth will make you free.**” ³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free?’” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of**

sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. ³⁶ So **if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.**”).

B. Both were **rejected** as **redeemers**.

1. Moses:

- a. Though Moses was **great in words and deeds** Israel rejected him as their redeemer (Acts 7:22-27 – “Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians, and he was a **man of power in words and deeds**. ²³ But when he was approaching the age of forty, **it entered his mind to visit his brethren**, the sons of Israel. ²⁴ And when he saw one of them being treated unjustly, he defended him and took vengeance for the oppressed **by striking down the Egyptian**. ²⁵ **And he supposed that his brethren understood that God was granting them deliverance through him**, but they **did not understand**. ²⁶ On the following day he appeared to them as they were fighting together, and he tried to reconcile them in peace, saying, ‘Men, you are brethren, why do you injure one another?’ ²⁷ But the one who was injuring his neighbor pushed him away, saying, ‘**Who made you a ruler and judge over us?**’”). They did not appreciate the position Moses was willing to leave behind for their deliverance!
- b. Upon returning to Egypt after 40 years to call for Israel’s release (Ex. 5:1-2), Pharaoh increased their burdens and Israel **grumbled at him** (Ex. 5:20-23 – “When they left Pharaoh’s presence, they met Moses and Aaron as they were waiting for them. ²¹ They said to them, “**May the LORD look upon you and judge you, for you have made us odious** in Pharaoh’s sight and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us.” ²² Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, “O Lord, **why have You brought harm to this people? Why did You ever send me?**” ²³ Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done harm to this people, and **You have not delivered Your people at all.**”).
 - i. Israel, again, misunderstood and rejected Moses’s efforts.
 - ii. Though God had warned Moses of Pharaoh’s obstinance that He would use to bring judgment on him and Egypt (Ex. 4:21-23), because of their grumbling **Moses** in weakness **questioned his mission** and **God Himself**.

2. Jesus:

- a. Like Moses, Jesus was rejected as Israel’s redeemer, which is summed up by John (John 1:9-11 – “There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and **the world was made through Him**, and **the world did not know Him**. ¹¹ He came to His own, and **those who were His own did not receive Him**.”).
 - i. Though there are similarities, these are also **critical contrast**!
 - ii. For, Jesus came **into the world** that **He created** and was **rejected** by the **world**.
 - iii. Also, Jesus came to **His people** not just because He was **born a Jew**, but also by reason of **being their God**. And yet they also **rejected** Him.
- b. Like Moses, Israel grumbled at Jesus (Jn. 7:11-12 – “So the Jews were seeking Him at the feast and were saying, “Where is He?”” ¹² There was **much grumbling among the crowds concerning Him**; some were saying, “He is a good man”; others were saying, “No, on the contrary, **He leads the people astray.**”).
 - i. Like Israel of old, they had again misunderstood the mission of their redeemer.
 - ii. Those complaints were many and grew until most turned away from Jesus!
- c. Here is where things get very interesting. For, though like Moses Israel rejected Jesus despite the **great power He possessed both word** (Mt. 13:54) **and deed**, the end result was infinitely greater (John 12:37-38 – “But **although He had done so many signs** before them, **they did not believe in Him**, ³⁸ that the **word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled**, which he spoke: “**Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?**”).

- i. When John says Jesus' rejection fulfilling Isaiah's words (Isa. 53:1), **he is affirming that Jesus is the Messiah** prophesied of there in **Isaiah 53**.
 - ii. Thus, John is declaring that Jesus' **signs** and their **rejection signaled** the coming of the **redemption** through God's **suffering servant** who would bear our griefs and sorrows, be oppressed, and die as an **offering for the sins of His wayward sheep** only to be **raised** to bring **atonement** and **healing** for all (53:1-12)!
- C. Though both were **men of power in word and deed**, Jesus is shown to be an infinitely greater Redeemer by His choice to **enter the world He created** with **full knowledge** of His **rejection, suffering, and death** to **bring redemption and life** for a sinful world.

II. Intercessors (of those who rejected them)

A. Moses the intercessor (Exodus 32):

1. When Moses was **with God up on Mt. Sinai**, He was **sent down** because Israel had corrupted itself in the sin by rejecting God and worshipping the golden calf (32:7-10 – "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, **"Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt,** have corrupted themselves. ⁸ They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it and have sacrificed to it and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!'" ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. ¹⁰ Now then let Me alone, **that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them;** and I will make of you a great nation."").
 - a. Note that Moses was sent to **his people** that **he had delivered**, which is significant because God connected Moses to them—he was like them (32:7).
 - b. Also, God said their **obstinacy** was **deserving of destruction** and that He would **make a great nation through Moses** (32:10).
 - i. This was a **significant test** for Moses as Israel's intercessor! For, he could have **abandoned** a stubborn, ungrateful Israel to **God's wrath** and become the one through whom God would fulfill the promises to Abraham (Gen. 12:2) and Jacob (Gen. 35:11).
 - ii. But like a **good shepherd** he did not abandon his sheep, but on Israel's behalf he **entreated** God not to destroy them (32:11-14 – "Then Moses **entreated** the LORD his God, and said, 'O LORD, why does Your anger burn against **Your people** whom **You have brought out from the land of Egypt** with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the **Egyptians speak**, saying, '**With evil intent He brought them out** to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your burning anger and change Your mind about doing harm to Your people. ¹³ **Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel**, Your servants to whom You **swore by Yourself**, and said to them, '**I will multiply your descendants** as the stars of the heavens, and **all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants**, and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴ So **the LORD changed His mind** about the harm which He said He would do to His people."").
2. Upon **seeing Israel's sin** first hand, Moses **went back to God** on Mt. Sinai to **intercede** and **make atonement** (32:30-32 – "On the next day Moses said to the people, "You yourselves **have committed a great sin;** and now I am **going up to the LORD**, perhaps **I can make atonement for your sin.**" ³¹ Then Moses **returned to the LORD**, and said, "Alas, this people has committed a great sin, and they have made a god of gold for themselves. ³² But now, if You will, **forgive their sin—and if not, please blot me out from Your book** which You have written!").
 - a. God, however, **refused Moses' offer of himself as atonement**, saying the **people would answer** for their own sins (32:33-35).
 - b. Though **Moses later died for his actions as Israel's redeemer and intercessor**, it was in fact **for his sin that he died** and could not enter the Land (Num. 20:9-12; 27:12-14).

- c. And though Moses often interceded for Israel for their rebellious ways, **most of them died in the wilderness** in disobedience and unbelief (Heb. 3:16-19)!

B. Jesus the intercessor:

1. Like Moses, when Jesus was **with God** (in heaven) He was **sent down** to earth to **His people** to address their sin (1 Jn. 4:9-10 – “By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has **sent His only begotten Son into the world** so that **we might live through Him**.¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and **sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins**.”).
2. He came as **as one of us**, as one of our **brethren** (Heb. 2:14-18 – “Therefore, since **the children share in flesh and blood**, **He Himself likewise also partook of the same**, that through **death** He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.¹⁶ For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.¹⁷ Therefore, **He had to be made like His brethren in all things**, so that He might become a **merciful and faithful high priest** in things pertaining to God, **to make propitiation for the sins of the people**.¹⁸ For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.”).
3. Like Moses, Jesus’ intercessory role was **tested!** (Matt. 4:8-11 – “Again, the **devil** took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;⁹ and he said to Him, “**All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me**.”¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “**Go, Satan!** For it is written, ‘**You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only**.’”¹¹ Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.”).
 - a. Satan offered Jesus great glory in this world **without the pain and suffering**.
 - b. But Jesus did not abandon His mission!
4. Like Moses, Jesus sought to **provide atonement for sin** (Heb. 2:17 – “Therefore, **He had to be made like His brethren in all things**, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, **to make propitiation for the sins of the people**.”).
 - a. Unlike Moses, God **accepted Jesus’ offering** as propitiation for our sins **for Israel** and the **whole world** (1 Jn. 2:1-2 – “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;² and **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins**; and not for ours only, but also **for those of the whole world**.”).
 - b. Unlike Moses who died, Jesus died and has been **raised** to eternal life to continually make intercession for His people (Heb. 7:23-25 – “The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they **were prevented by death from continuing**,²⁴ but Jesus, on the other hand, because **He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently**.²⁵ Therefore He is **able also to save forever** those who draw near to God through Him, **since He always lives to make intercession for them**.”).

- C. As you can see, although **Moses cast a tall shadow** as a intercessor, **Jesus the risen Christ is an infinitely greater intercessor** in every way.

CONCLUSION:

1. As we conclude this series on Moses and Jesus, I hope that you have been impressed with God’s hand in His plan and your faith has been strengthened!
2. And I will sum up by the words of Hebrews.
 - A. For, if you are outside of Christ, will you heed the warning and believe to your salvation (Heb. 2:1-2 – “Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.² For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but **the word they heard did not profit them**, because **it was not united by faith in those who heard**.”)? And, as a result will you R-C-Bp as Jesus has commanded?

- B. If you are a faithful Christian or one who has not lived faithfully, will you heed the exhortation (Heb. 2:14 – “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.**”)?
- 3. Will you come to Jesus that He might be your redeemer and intercessor by F-R-C-Bp?