

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 18: MOSES, the Prophet

Aim: To explore the prophetic nature of the writings of Moses, and the religious leaders of Israel's attitude towards them.

Key Scriptures: Deuteronomy 18:15-22. Matthew 23:1-3, 27-28; Luke 24:25-32, 44-45. John 5:39-47; 2 Corinthians 3:14-15. 2 Peter 1:20-21.

In our previous lesson 'Moses, the Deliverer' we saw how from his birth, Moses was destined to be the ruler and the deliverer of Israel. (See Heb.11:23-26). But when Moses went to his people the first time, he was rejected: '[Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?](#)', they asked. Moses then left for a far country, and it was 40 years before God sent him back to Egypt to be Israel's deliverer.

When Moses returned to Egypt the second time, he was accepted by his brethren, and through a series of 10 plagues, he was subsequently able to bring about their deliverance from slavery under Pharaoh.

At His first Advent, Jesus who was born King of the Jews, was rejected by His brothers, the same nation of Israel. After this, He went to a 'far country', the heavens.

Jesus, on His return to the earth, will be accepted by the nation of Israel as both their King that they rejected and killed, and their Deliverer. Jesus will deliver Israel from the bondage that they will find themselves in during the Great Tribulation at the hands of the Antichrist. Just as Pharaoh in Moses' day was king over Egypt, the most powerful nation in the world, so the Antichrist will be the most powerful world ruler at that future time.

When Jesus returns to His 'brothers' they will acknowledge their sins of unbelief and of crucifying of their King. After this, Jesus will take Israel back into the land of their inheritance, just as Joshua did.

From the very beginning of this study of Jesus in the Old Testament, we have been studying the words of Moses, the same words which Christ drew from on the road to Emmaus to reveal Himself to the 2 disciples.

Repetition is always good, so let's read together again 3 verses from Luke chapter 24:

***Luke 24:25** Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!*

26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

*27 And **beginning at Moses** and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

And following on from this we see:

***Luke 24:28** Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther.*

29 But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

Observations:

Q: What might we learn from these verses for ourselves?

A:

Later that day as the 2 disciples returned to Jerusalem to tell the rest of the disciples they had seen the risen Christ, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread, He appeared in their midst:

Observations:

***Luke 24:44** Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."*

45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

That day was not the first time Jesus made reference to Moses. In His earthly ministry, He had much to say about Moses because it is in Moses' writings that we find Christ, and they present the foundation for all the rest of Scripture.

Israel's religious leaders were quick to make use of Moses' writings, but only when it suited them. Jesus spoke quite harshly to them about this:

Observations:

***John 5:39** "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have age-lasting life; and these are they which testify of Me.*

40 "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life [for the age to come].

43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

45 "Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you--Moses, in whom you trust.

46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

Q: Why do the religious leaders search the Scriptures?

A:

Q: Of whom do the Scriptures testify?

A:

Q: Who should they have gone to for life in the age to come, but what was their attitude towards Him?

A:

Q: Who was Jesus alluding to in v.43 that they would receive?

A:

Q: Who do the religious leaders trust according to v.45?

A:

Q: Who does Jesus say Moses wrote about?

A:

The Jews claimed to believe in Moses, yet they didn't believe Jesus even though Moses wrote about Him.

The title of today's lesson is **Moses, the Prophet**. Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible.

The writings of Moses reveal the history of mankind from the very beginning, and because of that, if we are not careful, we can assume he is just an historian, a chronicler. But is that how we should view his writings? And how did he know what to write when he was not there in the very beginning? The Apostle Peter answers that question:

2Peter 1:20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Q: How did Moses know what to write?

A:

God, through His Spirit, revealed to all the writers exactly what they were to record. It was not to be of their own individual private interpretation, but what God wanted to be said in the Scriptures.

In our very first lesson we discovered that all of the OT is the Word of God, and that Jesus is the Word of God made flesh (John 1:14). In our studies so far, we have seen how individuals that Moses wrote about are types that reveal something about Jesus the Christ.

Q: Name 3 individuals we have studied, who in some facet of their lives, are a Type of Jesus Christ and why.

A:

All those we have studied so far preceded Jesus's first Advent and His future second Advent, and therefore what Moses wrote about them that pointed to Christ was, and still is, prophetic.

What is Prophecy?

Prophecy is stating that which has yet to happen. Prophecy is fulfilled when that which was stated comes to pass. When we study types as we have been doing, we are studying prophecy.

Types are Prophecy!

Folks such as Adam, Isaac, and Joseph, were real people who in the past lived and died. Yet their lives pointed to a future time when Christ would have His first Advent, and they often pointed to His second Coming, as well. In Moses'

writings there is much revealed that has yet to take place! The fulfillment of the antitypes await a future Day. For example, Rebekah and her meeting with Isaac points to the Bride of Christ meeting Him at the JSOC.

Moses was a Prophet of God.

Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me [Moses] from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

Q: Who was the Prophet that Moses was referring to?

A:

Moses was referring to Jesus Christ. When He came to the earth, although He was born King of the Jews, He came as **Prophet** to the nation of Israel. He proclaimed things that had yet to take place, and like many of the OT prophets, He was calling the nation to repent of their sins. Now that He is in the heavens, Jesus is functioning as our High **Priest**, enabling us to be forgiven and cleansed of our sins. And when Jesus returns to the earth a second time, He will be the **King** of kings and will establish His Kingdom on earth as it will be in the heavens. Christ will have fulfilled 3 roles: **Prophet, Priest, and King!**

‘The Prophets’

Christians sometimes think that only those men with a book of the Bible named after them are ‘The Prophets’, such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, or Daniel. Yet one of the more famous prophets, Elijah, never wrote a book as far as we know.

Still others believe that God has told them something which is not within the Scriptures, and they are happy to label themselves as modern day prophets.

If we think that prophecy is only to be found in the Books of the Prophets beginning with Isaiah and ending with Malachi, then we are missing so much of the prophetic nature of the writings in the OT. Moses wrote 5 books filled with prophecy!

Let’s return to Deuteronomy chapter 18:

Deuteronomy 18:18 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

19 'And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.

20 'But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

21 "And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' -

22 "when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

Q: What does v.18 add not contained in v.15?

A:

Q: Where in John's gospel would you want to go as confirmation of these verses?

A:

Q: What would be the outcome for the prophet who presumes to speak in God's name which he has not been commanded to speak?

A:

If we return to Jesus' interaction with the religious leaders, we see this in Matthew chapter 23:

***Mt 23:1** Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples,*

Observations:

2 saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat.

3 "Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.

Q: Where do the scribes and Pharisees sit, and what do you think that means?

A:

Jesus told the people and His disciples to observe and obey what they are told from the writings of Moses given to them by the scribes and Pharisees, but He also warned them not to do what they did, because they did not put Moses' writings into practice. They were hypocrites! They pretended to be virtuous and holy but were not. In Matthew chapter 23, Jesus referred to them as 'hypocrites' 7 times along with 7 'woes'. Here is just one example:

***Mt 23:27** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.*

Notes:

28 "Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

The failure of the religious leaders to believe the writings of Moses (John.5:46) is not dissimilar to Israel in the wilderness which the Apostle Paul referenced when he was speaking of Israel:

***2Corinthians 3:14** But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.*

Notes:

15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.

When Jesus returns a second time to judge the nation of Israel in preparation for setting up His earthly Kingdom, Moses and Elijah will be with Him. Together they represent the Law and the Prophets, the whole of the OT, that which is embodied in Christ. Those hypocritical scribes and Pharisees will be judged by what Moses wrote, and by Who he wrote about, which they failed to believe.

***John 5:45** "Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you--Moses, in whom you trust.*

Just like the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus, the scribes and Pharisees did not have eyes to see despite 'sitting in Moses' Seat' and having the OT Scriptures in their hands.

Jesus opened the 2 disciples understanding by beginning with Moses and all the prophets. There is no better place to start to understand things about Jesus than with Moses, the prophet of God.

Let's pray...