

O.T. Shadows of Christ: Moses

INTRODUCTION:

1. Today we continue our study of O.T. shadows, with this being the final study of this quarter dealing with the shadows pertaining specifically to Jesus the Christ.
2. Today we want to address one of the most obvious shadows of Christ, which is **Moses**.
 - A. We know this because Moses himself said that he was to be a shadow of one to come (Deut. 18:15, 18-19 – “The Lord your God will raise up for you a **Prophet like me** from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,...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.”).
 - i. God would send a prophet that one *could recognize* if one *knew about Moses*.
 - ii. This, of course, is the very idea of biblical shadows/substance, types/antitypes!
 - B. Peter says Jesus fulfilled this prophecy, that He is the substance/antitype (Acts 3:19-23 – “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,²⁰ and that He may send **Jesus Christ**, who was preached to you before,²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.²² For Moses truly said to the fathers, The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.²³ And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.”).
3. So, without question Moses is a shadow/type of Jesus our Savior and the work He was sent to do upon this earth.
 - A. The connections between these two are many and very specific.
 - B. I want to consider these many similarities, some being more prominent, and some less, in hopes of all seeing the true power of God behind His plan to redeem us from our sins through Jesus.

BODY:

I. Moses and Jesus—Similarities of birth and early life:

- A. Both were born when God’s people were under the dominion of a hostile Gentile power.
 1. Moses was born while Israel was in bondage to Egypt under a Pharaoh who sought to kill all the sons of the Israelites (Ex. 1:22 – 2:3 – “So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.”¹ And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi.² So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months.³ But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river’s bank.”).
 2. Jesus was born while Israel was under Roman rule with Herod as king who ultimately desired to kill all the sons of the Israelites (Matt. 2:1-2, 16 – “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,² saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”...¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.”).
- B. Both were adopted:
 1. Moses, after being hidden in the bulrushes, was found by Pharaoh’s daughter and Ex. 2:10 says, “And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, “Because I drew him out of the water.”
 - a. From what is written it appears Moses had a mother, who adopted him, while nothing is said about a father.

2. Jesus, the antitype was born into this world with a mother, but no earthly father (Matt. 1:18, 22-23 – “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit...²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:²³ “Behold, the **virgin** shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”).

- a. As a result of God’s words, Joseph received Mary as his wife, accepting to adopt her son conceived by the Spirit, and raise Him as his own.

C. Both spent time in their childhood in Egypt.

1. Moses, of course, was born in Egypt and raised as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.
2. Jesus, though born in Bethlehem according to prophecy, was also raised for a time in Egypt to escape Herod, which also fulfilled prophecy (Matt. 2:12-15 – “Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”).

II. Moses and Jesus—Similarities of Position

A. Both *chose to leave a position of power, glory, and riches* to take upon themselves the *humble* role of redeemer of their fellowman.

1. Moses, though holding one of the highest positions of power in the world as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, chose to leave it that he might suffer with God’s people (Heb. 11:24-26 – “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,²⁶ esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”).
2. Christ, *in a far greater sense*, chose to leave the glory, power, and riches of heaven that He might come to earth, suffer the afflictions of His creation, and save us from our sins.
 - a. He left heaven to become man to die for our sins (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.” – NASB).
 - b. He left heaven for our eternal good (Heb. 2:14-15 – “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He **Himself likewise shared in the same**, that through death He might **destroy him who had the power of death**, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”).

B. Both spent time in seclusion before entering their ministry.

1. Stephen in Acts 7:29 states that after the Israelites rejected Moses’ rulership over them he “fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons.”
 - a. This was no short stay but instead lasted 40 years!
 - b. Moses needed 40 years of growth and humility to be Israel’s redeemer!
2. Jesus, *not coincidentally*, spent *40 days* in the desert fasting only to be ultimately **tempted by Satan** before His ministry could begin.
 - a. This was God’s plan as he was led by the Spirit (Matt. 4:1-3 – “Then Jesus was **led** up by the **Spirit** into the wilderness **to be tempted by the devil**.² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”)

- b. By God’s plan he faced the fullness of temptation to be our faithful and compassionate high priest (Heb. 4:14-16 – “Seeing then that 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 was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”).
- C. Both were *rejected* by their brethren in their chosen and God-given positions.
1. When Moses revealed himself to his fellowman, he assumed they would understand and accept his position as one who could save them, but they didn’t.
 - a. He was rejected before leaving Egypt (Acts 7:23-29 – “Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. ²⁴ And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. ²⁵ For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. ²⁶ And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and tried to reconcile them, saying, ‘Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?’ ²⁷ But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? ²⁸ Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?’ ²⁹ Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons.”).
 - b. Though returning to Egypt as their deliverer with *signs and wonders*, they still rejected him for a time because things did not go as Israel had hoped (Ex. 5:19-21 – “The foremen of the sons of Israel saw that they were in trouble because they were told, “You must not reduce your daily amount of bricks.” ²⁰ 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.”).
 - c. Their rejection, however, did not stop Moses from becoming deliverer and ruler over them.
 2. Christ, despite coming with signs and wonders, was refused by Israel as their ruler/Savior.
 - a. To this end Jesus presented a parable concerning their rejection Him as their king (Lk. 19:12-15 – “Therefore He said: “A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. ¹³ So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Do business till I come.’ ¹⁴ **But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We will not have this man to reign over us.’** ¹⁵ “And so it was that when he returned, **having received the kingdom**, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.”).
 - b. In the end the Jewish leaders refused to accept Jesus’ rule over them (Jn. 19:14-15 – “Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” ¹⁵ But they cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!”).
 - c. Yet, like Moses, their rejection and crucifixion of Him did not stop Jesus’ rulership, but was instead He was raised to sit as King on God’s throne (Acts 2:30-33 – “Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, ³¹ he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. ³³ Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.”).

III. Moses and Jesus—Similarities of burdens to bear:

- A. **Shadow/Type:** Moses felt the weight of the people's discontent against him/God (Num.11):
1. Context: People had complained against God and He had sent fire that consumed some on the outskirts of the camp. So, people that had been delivered from bondage had now died!
 2. When they give into intense craving, complaining about the manna from God and their desire for food...*like they had in Egypt*, consider Moses' response (Num. 11:11-15 – “So Moses said to the Lord, “Why have You afflicted Your servant? **And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid the burden of all these people on me?** Did I conceive all these people? **Did I beget them, that You should say to me, Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,**’ to the land which You swore to their fathers? Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’ **I am not able to bear all these people alone**, because the burden is too heavy for me. **If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now**—if I have found favor in Your sight—and do not let me see my wretchedness!”).
 - a. Note how Moses saw the burdens of the people as an injustice against him.
 - b. He saw no *reasons for* bearing nor *means of* bearing their burdens.
 - c. So, if God favored him, He would give him death rather than bear those burdens.
- B. **Substance/Antitype:** Jesus like Moses Jesus also felt the weight of the people's sin and afflictions, but...
1. Unlike Moses, his *finding favor* with God resulted in Jesus being *sent* to carry our burdens (Isa. 53:4-6, 11 – “Surely He has **borne our griefs** and **carried our sorrows**; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has **laid on Him the iniquity of us all...** ¹¹...By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For **He shall bear their iniquities.**”).
 2. Unlike Moses, Jesus *can provide ample food* for the people as He did in John 6:5-14 in feeding the five thousand, and as He stated in John 6:35 where He said, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”
 3. Unlike Moses, Jesus *invites* all to come to Him and cast their burdens upon Him.
 - a. Matt. 11:28-30 – “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will **give you rest.** ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls.** ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”
 - b. 1 Pet. 5:6-7 – “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ **casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.**” (ESV)
 4. Unlike Moses, Jesus *mourned* that people *refused* to trust Him and put their cares on Him.
 - a. Remember Moses said, “why have I **not found favor** in Your sight, that **You have laid the burden of all these people on me?**” (Num. 11:11)
 - b. Jesus desired the very opposite (Matt. 23:37-38 – “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often **I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings**, but you were not willing! ³⁸ See! Your house is left to you desolate”).
 - i. Jesus knew that only by in coming to Him for his care/protection was there hope for life and salvation in Israel.
 - ii. Despite their sin and rejection, He pleaded with them to let him carry their burdens!
 5. Unlike Moses, Jesus is willing and able to bear our burdens of sin (1 Pet. 2:22-24 – “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; ²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”).

CONCLUSION:

1. As you can see, when Moses by the Spirit said there was one coming after him *who would be like him*, he was referring to some very specific similarities.
2. And, as we shall see in my next lesson, those specifics grow in detail and in power as we consider how Jesus, like Moses, is our redeemer, lawgiver, and intercessor.
3. But, as we have seen today, Jesus as the substance of the shadow is far greater than Moses, being the redeemer who is willing to take upon Himself our burdens, our cares, and most importantly our sin.
4. He is waiting on you to accept Him as such and submit to Him in F-R-C-B that you might be raised to newness of life.
5. What will you do with Jesus?