

God's Providence in God's People

Contra Costa Gospel Church
Adult Sunday School

MOSES (Part 3)

Moses versus Jesus. Who wins that battle? Moses was the greatest leader Israel had ever known up until that time. If we had to make a call, we might even say that he even surpassed David as the greatest leader of Israel ever (with the exception of the Messiah) for he was the one who brought them to Law of God. But what about Moses versus Jesus? Is that a fair fight?

As believers in Jesus who read the Old Testament through the eyes of those who have put their faith in Israel's Messiah, we recognize the value that the person of Moses has in the great story of redemption. Outside of Jesus he is the leader of Israel *par excellence*, to the extent that, in demonstrating the authority and supreme position of Jesus in Israel, the author of Hebrews compares Jesus with Moses (not David, not Solomon, not Samuel, etc.). Only a comparison with Moses comes somewhat close.

As we continue in our study of the "character" of Moses in this story of redemption, we have to keep in mind that comparison. So much about the account of Moses is setting the reader up for what Jesus will later do and teach.

Moses' bread vs. Jesus' bread

- 1) In Exodus 14, the Lord once and for all delivers Israel from the hands of their oppressors by bringing them through the Red Sea and drowning their pursuers in the same water. Just a few days later while walking through the desert, the Israelites begin to grumble to Moses and Aaron about the lack of food and water, prompting the Lord to take action and send "bread from heaven." Read Exodus 16:1-36.
 - a. What was characteristic about the manna? What are some things that we can say about it?
 - b. What do you think the response was toward the manna after eating it for 40 straight years?
 - c. Read John 6:1-35. In what specific ways is Jesus, as the "bread of life," superior to the bread given to Israel through Moses?
 - d. In that same passage, although it's a little more subtle, in what ways does Jesus say that He is superior to Moses?

Moses' Teaching vs. Jesus' Teaching

- 2) The teaching of Moses to the Israelites goes by several names in the Bible. Based on the following verses, what are these names that all refer to the same thing – the teaching of Moses?

Exodus 19:1-5; 24:7; 24:38

Deut. 28:61; 29:21; 30:10; 31:24-26

Psalm 19:7-14

- 3) Read Hebrews 1:1-3. The author of Hebrews makes a comparison between God speaking to Israel in the past (mainly through the Law of Moses, which the prophets all taught from) and God speaking to Israel now, through Jesus. According to the author of Hebrews, how is the message from Jesus superior?
- 4) Read Galatians 3. Like the author of Hebrews, Paul makes a comparison between the Law of Moses and faith in Jesus. Why do you think both Paul and the author of Hebrews make this comparison? What might have been the situation of their audience that would prompt them to this type of argument?

In Galatians 3:19-29, Paul gives several reasons why faith in Jesus is superior to Moses' Law. What are some of these reasons?

- a. 3:19
- b. 3:23
- c. 3:24-25

Moses vs. Jesus

- 5) In Hebrews 3, the author doesn't just make a comparison between the teachings of Moses vs. Jesus, but in this chapter makes a comparison between the two men themselves. Read Hebrews 3:1-6. Based on this passage, how would you complete this sentence?

Jesus is superior to Moses because _____

_____.