



Moses — The Deliverer and Lawgiver

Introduction

Moses stands as one of the most influential figures in all of Scripture, a man chosen by God to **deliver** His people from bondage, reveal His law, and mediate His **covenant**. His life bridges promise and fulfillment, slavery and freedom, law and grace. More than a leader or prophet, Moses prefigures Christ as the **Redeemer** who leads His people from the bondage of sin into a covenant relationship with God.

His story, recorded in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, reveals God's faithfulness, holiness, and mercy. From his miraculous preservation as an infant to his final glimpse of the Promised Land, Moses' life illustrates what it means to serve God with humility, courage, and perseverance.

The Birth and Preservation of Moses

The story of Moses begins under oppression. Pharaoh, fearing the growing Hebrew population, ordered that every male child be cast into the Nile. Yet God's plan cannot be thwarted. A Levite woman hid her child for three months, placing him in an ark of bulrushes by the river's edge (Exodus 2:3). By **divine providence**, Pharaoh's daughter found the infant and named him Moses, meaning "drawn out of the water" (Exodus 2:10).

This act of deliverance foreshadowed God's future redemption of Israel. The same God who preserved Moses in an ark would later part the waters of the Red Sea to deliver an entire nation. Moses' life from its beginning was marked by divine purpose.

The Call at the Burning Bush

After forty years in Pharaoh's court and another forty as a shepherd in Midian, Moses encountered God in a flame of fire from the midst of a burning bush that was not consumed (Exodus 3:2). From this miraculous sight, God called him to deliver His people from Egypt.

When Moses protested his inadequacy, God answered, "Certainly I will be with thee" (Exodus 3:12). The power of Moses' ministry rested not in his eloquence or ability but in God's presence. God revealed His name as "**I AM THAT I AM**" (Exodus 3:14), signifying



His eternal self-existence and covenant faithfulness.

The **burning bush** symbolizes the holiness of God and the endurance of His people; the bush burned with fire yet was not consumed, just as Israel would endure suffering without being destroyed.

The Confrontation with Pharaoh

Moses returned to **Egypt** armed not with weapons but with the authority of God's Word. Confronting the world's most powerful ruler, he declared, "Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go" (Exodus 5:1). Pharaoh's defiance unleashed a series of plagues that demonstrated God's supremacy over Egypt's gods and culminated in the death of the firstborn.

The final plague introduced the **Passover**, in which Israel was spared through the blood of the lamb applied to their doorposts (Exodus 12:7–13). This act of redemption prefigured Christ, "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Through these judgments, God revealed both His justice and His mercy, judgment on Egypt, and redemption for His people.

The Exodus and the Crossing of the Red Sea

After the tenth plague, **Pharaoh** finally released the Israelites. Yet he soon pursued them to the edge of the Red Sea, trapping them between his army and the waters. In that desperate moment, Moses declared, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD" (Exodus 14:13).

God commanded Moses to stretch out his rod, and the sea parted, allowing Israel to cross on dry ground. When Pharaoh's army followed, the waters returned, destroying them. This event became the defining moment of **Israel's deliverance**, commemorated throughout Scripture as the day the Lord redeemed His people by power and by blood.

The crossing of the Red Sea foreshadows the believer's salvation—deliverance from bondage through faith and the power of God. As Israel passed through the water into freedom, so believers pass from death to life through Christ.

The Covenant at Mount Sinai



At **Mount Sinai**, God revealed His law and established His covenant with Israel. The mountain trembled with fire, smoke, and thunder as God descended. From its summit, He gave the **Ten Commandments**, summarizing His moral will: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3).

The law revealed God’s holiness and the standard of righteousness required for fellowship with Him. It was not given to save but to expose sin and lead the people to grace. Through the covenant, Israel became a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:6).

Moses, as mediator, stood between God and the people, symbolizing the need for one who could bridge heaven and earth. In this role, he foreshadowed Christ, the greater Mediator of a better covenant (Hebrews 8:6).

The Tabernacle and the Presence of God

After giving the law, God instructed Moses to build the **tabernacle**, a dwelling place for His presence among His people. “Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them” (Exodus 25:8). Every detail of the tabernacle, from the altar to the veil, pointed prophetically to Christ’s redemptive work.

The ark of the covenant represented God’s throne; the mercy seat above it signified atonement. The high priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year with blood, foreshadowing Jesus’ once-for-all sacrifice. Moses, who saw the pattern on the mount, faithfully constructed everything as God commanded, demonstrating obedience born of reverence.

When the tabernacle was complete, “the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle” (Exodus 40:34). God’s presence among His people confirmed His covenant faithfulness and prefigured the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church today.

The Rebellion and the Wilderness Journey

Despite God’s mighty acts, Israel’s journey through the wilderness was marked by unbelief. At **Kadesh-Barnea**, fear prevented them from entering the Promised Land, and they wandered forty years in the desert.

Moses interceded repeatedly for the people, pleading for mercy when judgment threatened. His prayer, “Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people” (Numbers 14:19), reveals the heart of a shepherd willing to bear the burden of others.



Yet even Moses faltered. In frustration, he struck the rock at Meribah rather than speaking to it as God commanded (Numbers 20:11-12). Though the water flowed, this act of disobedience cost him entry into the land. The **rock**, symbolizing Christ, was to be struck only once; to strike it again distorted the prophetic picture of redemption already accomplished.

The Faithfulness of the Lawgiver

Moses' final acts display his enduring faith. He ascended **Mount Nebo** to view the land from afar, seeing the fulfillment of promises he would not personally inherit (Deuteronomy 34:1-4). Yet Scripture records that "his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated" (Deuteronomy 34:7). God Himself buried him, and no man knew his sepulchre.

Moses' life closed in faith, and his legacy continued in Joshua, who led Israel into Canaan. Centuries later, Moses appeared with Elijah on the **Mount of Transfiguration**, speaking with Christ of His coming death (Luke 9:30-31). The Lawgiver who once delivered Israel from Egypt now stood beside the Savior who would deliver the world from sin.

Moses as a Type of Christ

Throughout Scripture, Moses serves as a type of Christ. Like Moses, Jesus was born under threat of death yet preserved by divine intervention. Both mediated covenants, Moses the old, Christ the new. Both performed miracles, delivered their people, and interceded for sinners.

Moses lifted up the **bronze serpent** in the wilderness for the healing of those bitten by serpents (Numbers 21:9). Jesus declared, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up" (John 3:14). Moses gave the law written on stone; Christ writes it upon the heart.

In every way, the shadow gives way to substance. Moses was a servant in God's house; Christ is the Son over His house (Hebrews 3:5-6).

Conclusion

Moses' life testifies to the power of **obedience**, the cost of leadership, and the mercy of God. He led a nation from slavery to covenant, from despair to worship. His journey from the Nile to Nebo is a portrait of divine purpose fulfilled through human weakness and faith.



Through Moses, God revealed His holiness, justice, and compassion. Through Christ, the realities symbolized in Moses' ministry find their ultimate fulfillment. The Lawgiver pointed to the Redeemer, and the deliverance from Egypt foreshadowed the greater deliverance of Calvary.

Moses remains a timeless example of humility and faith—a man who spoke with God “face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend” (Exodus 33:11). His story reminds every believer that the God who called him still calls us to lead, serve, and trust in the promise of deliverance through Jesus Christ.