

Abounding Grace Christian Church

Seeing Christ in the Old Testament: A Study of the Types of Christ – Part 5

I. Seeing Christ in the Book of Exodus.

A. Moses - A Type of Christ. (Around 1500 years before Christ).

1. **Who was Moses? Exodus 2:1-10.** The name “**Moses**” means; “**taken out of the water**” or “**saved out of the water.**”¹ His parents were from the tribe of Levi which later would become the priestly tribe. When he was born, his parents hid him for three months due to Pharaoh's decree that all Hebrew males should be killed when they were born. Pharaoh commanded this because he was afraid at how the Israelites had multiplied in numbers (1:7-22). Eventually, Moses was discovered in a basket among the reeds in the Nile River by Pharaoh's daughter and later adopted by her. He was raised as an Egyptian but must have been aware of his ethnicity in that he rescued a fellow Israelite from an Egyptian beating him, killing the Egyptian (2:11-12). When he discovered others knew what he had done, and that Pharaoh wanted to kill him, he fled to Midian and ended up marrying a Midianite woman named Zipporah (2:13-21). Moses is considered to be amongst the greatest leaders of Israel. He was called by God to deliver Israel out of the hands of the Egyptians (Exodus 3). He knew God intimately, face to face like a friend (33:11). The first five books of the Old Testament were written by him.

2. **Prophecy given Concerning another like Moses would come (Deuteronomy 18:15-18; See also John 1:21; 6:14; 7:40; Acts 7:37)**

a. Dr. Robert Utley states the following in reference to **Acts 7:37**:

“This is a Messianic quote from Deut. 18:15. Stephen is identifying God's presence during the Exodus and Wilderness Wandering Period as both God's angel and God's special successor of Moses (i.e. the Messiah, the Prophet). Stephen is not depreciating Moses, but truly listening to Moses!”²

b. Concerning this same passage, Grant Osborne writes:

“The Moses-Christ typology is made explicit in verse 37, where Stephen alludes to the prophecy of a prophet like Moses by citing Deuteronomy 18:15, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people.’ This is the third virtual title for Moses—ruler, redeemer, and now prophet. Peter made a similar typological link in 3:22–23, but there is a new wrinkle here—Moses and Jesus are the prophets rejected by their own people. The people of Israel turn away from the leaders God sends to deliver them (as indeed they are also doing with Stephen).”³

3. **Examples of how Moses was a Type of Christ.**

- a. Both were preserved from being killed as babies (Exodus 2:2-10; Matthew 2:14-15).
- b. Both fasted 40 days and nights (Exodus 34:28; Deuteronomy 9:9, 25; Luke 4:2).
- c. Both confronted and defeated Satan (Exodus 7:11-12; Luke 4:2).
- d. Both had power over the sea (Exodus 14:21; Matthew 8:26).
- e. Both fed multitudes of people supernaturally (Exodus 16:35; Numbers 11:31; Mark 6:41-42).
- f. Both were prophets of God (Deuteronomy 34:10; Luke 7:16).
- g. Both foretold many future events (Deuteronomy 28-30; Matthew 24).
- h. Both were sent to save their own people (Exodus 3:10; Matthew 1:21).
- i. Both were intercessors and mediators for the people before God (Exodus 32:9-14; Hebrews 7:25; I Timothy 2:5)
- j. Both were rejected in their first attempt (Exodus 2:14; John 1:11).
- k. Both were divinely appointed judges (Exodus 18:13; John 5:22).
- l. Both are successful in their callings (Exodus 12–15; Revelation 19:11-16).

¹ Alfred Jones, *Jones' Dictionary of Old Testament Proper Names*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1997), 258.

² Robert James Utley, *Luke the Historian: The Book of Acts*, vol. Volume 3B, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International, 2003), 105.

³ Grant R. Osborne, *Acts: Verse by Verse*, Osborne New Testament Commentaries (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2019), 140–141.

- m. Both had 70 helpers (**Numbers 11:16-17; Luke 10:1**).
- n. Both endured the contradiction of sinners (**Numbers 16:2-3; Hebrews 12:3**).
- o. Both endured unjust accusations (**Numbers 16:12-14; Matthew 9:34**).
- p. Both spoke the Word of God with power (**Numbers 16:23-32; Luke 4:32**).
- q. Both established memorials (**Exodus 12:14; Luke 22:19**).
- r. Both reappeared after death (**Matthew 17:3; Acts 1:3**).

4. A Look at I Corinthians 10:1-13.

- a. **Verses 1-2 – “...all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,...”** – Here we see an analogy of two baptisms of the Israelites. They were baptized “**into Moses**” which signifies a union and the fact that he was their mediator. Of course, in the New Covenant, Jesus Christ is our one and only Mediator, thus Moses becomes a type of Christ here. The two baptisms are described as being by a “**cloud**” and the “**sea**.” The **Red “sea**” was divided for the Israelites to pass through to the other side. This resulted in their deliverance from Egypt and the Pharaoh. When believers are “**baptized into Christ**” (**Romans 6:3-7**), we are delivered from sin and Satan. The “**cloud**” was the presence of God which protected and guided them. For every believer, there is a second baptism called the “**baptism in the Holy Spirit**” which empowers us for service and enhances our lives of prayer and worship.
- b. **Verse 3 – “...all ate the same spiritual food...”** – This is speaking of the manna from heaven (**Exodus 16:4, 35**). Jesus said He is the “**...bread of life...**” (**John 6:48**) and that He was the “**...bread which came down from heaven**” (**John 6:58**). It’s only by partaking of Him, in a spiritual sense, that our hunger can be satisfied.
- c. **Verse 4 – “...and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.”** In **Exodus 17:1-7**, we see that the children of Israel complained that there was no water. God commanded Moses to smite the rock and water would come out of it. This rock now becomes a type of Christ. Jesus was smitten for you and me so that we might have the living water of everlasting life (**John 4:10-14**).
- d. **Verses 5-6 – “But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.”** The word “**examples**” is the Greek word *tupos* which is where we get the word “**type**” from in our study. In our context, this word means; “**a person or thing prefiguring a future (Messianic) person or thing.**”⁴

⁴ Joseph Henry Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm’s Wilke’s Clavis Novi Testamenti* (New York: Harper & Brothers., 1889), 632.