

MOSES AT THE MOUNTAINS

I. MOSES AT MOUNT HOREB

- A. **Exodus 3:1-17** *"Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.' So when Jehovah saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then He said, 'Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.' Moreover He said, 'I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. And Jehovah said: 'I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?' So He said, 'I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.' Then Moses said to God, 'Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to*

them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you," and they say to me, "What is His name?" what shall I say to them?' And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And He said, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you."' Moreover God said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'Jehovah God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.' Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, "Jehovah God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, 'I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt; and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.'""

At Mount Horeb, Moses was called by God to deliver His people.

- B. Matthew 28:18-20** *"Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."*

We are likewise called to deliver people from oppression, namely the oppression of the devil by sin. Whereas God first revealed His name Jehovah to Moses in this call to deliverance, Jesus established the authority of His name as the basis for the gospel commission.

- C. Acts 4:10-12** *"By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

Just as the name of Jehovah delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt, so the name of Christ delivers sinners from the oppression of the devil.

II. MOSES AT MOUNT SINAI

- A. **Exodus 19:1-25** *"In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain. And Moses went up to God, and Jehovah called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.' So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which Jehovah commanded him. Then all the people answered together and said, 'All that Jehovah has spoken we will do.' So Moses brought back the words of the people to Jehovah. And Jehovah said to Moses, 'Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever.' So Moses told the words of the people to Jehovah. Then Jehovah said to Moses, 'Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day Jehovah will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, "Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live." When the trumpet sounds*

long, they shall come near the mountain.’ So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. And he said to the people, ‘Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives.’ Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because Jehovah descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. Then Jehovah came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And Jehovah called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. And Jehovah said to Moses, ‘Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at Jehovah, and many of them perish. Also let the priests who come near Jehovah consecrate themselves, lest Jehovah break out against them.’ But Moses said to Jehovah, ‘The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, “Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.”’ Then Jehovah said to him, ‘Away! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to Jehovah, lest He break out against them.’ So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.”

At Mount Sinai, God impressed upon Moses and the people His reverence.

1. **Psalm 89:7** *“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him.”*

He is to be esteemed sacred by all.

2. **Hebrews 12:28-29** *"Since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire."*

God is no less reverent in the present covenant than He was in the former.

- B. **Exodus 31:18** *"When He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God."*

At Mount Sinai, Moses received from God the law for Israel.

1. **Hebrews 7:12** *"For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law."*

We are no longer bound to keep that same law.

2. **1st Corinthians 9:21** *"To those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law."*

Nevertheless, in Christ, there is a law to keep.

III. MOSES AT MOUNT NEBO

- A. **Deuteronomy 34:1-8** *"Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho. And Jehovah showed him all the land of Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the South, and the plain of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. Then Jehovah said to him, 'This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, "I will give it to your descendants." I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.' So Moses the servant of Jehovah died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of Jehovah. And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old*

when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished. And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended.”

At Mount Nebo (Pisgah), Moses died in view of the promised land, yet outside it.

- B. Numbers 20:1-12** *“Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the Wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh; and Miriam died there and was buried there. Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. And the people contended with Moses and spoke, saying: ‘If only we had died when our brethren died before Jehovah! Why have you brought up the assembly of Jehovah into this wilderness, that we and our animals should die here? And why have you made us come up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink.’ So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and they fell on their faces. And the glory of Jehovah appeared to them. Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals.’ So Moses took the rod from before Jehovah as He commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, ‘Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?’ Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and Aaron, ‘Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.’”*

Dying outside the promised land was a punishment for Moses that God had prescribed years earlier.

- C. **1st Corinthians 6:9-10** *"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."*

Sin still precludes entry to the promised land of heaven.

- D. **2nd Samuel 12:13-14** *"David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against Jehovah.' And Nathan said to David, 'Jehovah also has put away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of Jehovah to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.'"*

Even sin that has been repented of often bears consequences.

- E. **Jude 9** *"Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'"*

Deuteronomy 29:29 *"The secret things belong to Jehovah our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."*

Satan would like to know where God buried Moses, but God has not revealed that information. The faithful must remain focused on what can be known rather than chasing down secrets God does not intend to reveal.

IV. MOSES AT THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

- A. **Mark 9:2-8** *"Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is*

good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’ — because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid. And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!’ Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves.”

2nd Peter 1:16-18 *“We did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.”*

At the holy mountain, as Peter referred to it, Moses was present for the glorification of Christ in His transfiguration. His presence was not for his own honor, but to bring glory to Jesus.

- B. Deuteronomy 34:10-12** *“Since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom Jehovah knew face to face, in all the signs and wonders which Jehovah sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.”*

Moses was a very special figure in history, unique in his relationship with God and honored for all the work he performed.

- 1. Deuteronomy 18:15-19** *“Jehovah your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of Jehovah your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of Jehovah my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’ And Jehovah said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. 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. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him."

Moses' greatness notwithstanding, he still pointed to someone greater than himself.

2. **Acts 3:22-26** *"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. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."*

Peter applied Moses' prophecy to Jesus Christ.