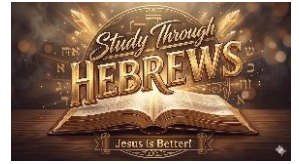




The Promised Prophet Like Moses (Supplemental Material from our Study in Hebrews)



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In the book of Deuteronomy Yahweh makes a stunning promise through Moses:

15 "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— 16 just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' 17 And the Lord said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. (Deut 18:15–18, ESV).

For the faithful Hebrew, generations looked expectantly for this coming prophet—one who would be “like” Moses, rise from among their brothers, and receive the very words of Yahweh to speak to His people.

In our study, we built the case that Jesus is precisely the one who fulfilled all of these prophetic promises. To a first-century Hebrew audience, the parallels between Moses and Jesus would have been striking and unmistakable.

Without burying the lede, I want to establish at the outset that Jesus is the ultimate archetype while Moses is merely the shadow. Moses served as a living picture of the ultimate reality: the Lord Jesus Christ. But before we arrive at that profound conclusion, let us examine **20 ways that Jesus is “like” Moses** (Deut 18:15–18):

1. Both Had a Miraculous Deliverance in Infancy

- **Moses:** As an infant, Moses was targeted for execution by a tyrannical ruler (Pharaoh) who ordered Hebrew baby boys to be killed, but God miraculously preserved his life (Ex 1:22, 2:2–10).
- **Jesus:** As an infant, Jesus was targeted by a tyrannical ruler (King Herod) who ordered the massacre of Bethlehem's male children aged two and under, but He was miraculously preserved by escaping to Egypt (Matt 2:13–16).

2. Both Had a Life Rooted in Egypt

- **Moses:** Was called out of Egypt, fulfilling the prophetic trajectory of God's people: *"Out of Egypt I called my son"* (Hos 11:1; Matt 2:15).
- **Jesus:** Spent His early infancy in Egypt as a refuge from Herod before being called back out of Egypt after Herod's death (Matt 2:14–15).

3. Both Were Rejected by Their Own People

- **Moses:** When he first tried to deliver an Israelite, he was rejected and asked, *"Who made you a ruler and judge over us?"* (Ex 2:14; Acts 7:25–27).

- **Jesus:** Came to His own people, yet His own did not receive Him, famously choosing Barabbas instead and rejecting His rightful kingship (John 1:11; Luke 23:18).

4. Both Fasted for Forty Days and Forty Nights

- **Moses:** Went up Mount Sinai and spent forty days and forty nights without bread or water while receiving the covenant and the law (Deut 9:9).
- **Jesus:** Went into the wilderness and fasted for forty days and forty nights, successfully defeating temptation in a severely weakened state before beginning His public ministry (Matt 4:1–2).

5. Both Were Lawgivers

- **Moses:** Received the law directly from God on Mount Sinai and delivered it to the people of Israel as the foundational covenant (Ex 20:1–17; John 1:17).
- **Jesus:** Expounded the true, spiritual intent of God's law in the Sermon on the Mount and established the New Covenant, fulfilled through grace and truth (Matt 5:17–48; John 1:17).

6. Both Are Mediators of a Covenant

- **Moses:** Served as the mediator of the Old Covenant established at Mount Sinai, sprinkling blood on the book and the people to seal it (Ex 24:8; Heb 9:19–20).
- **Jesus:** Serves as the mediator of a vastly superior New Covenant, established through His own blood (Heb 8:6, 9:15). Remember His words at the Last Supper: *"Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins"* (Matt 26:27–28).

7. Both of Their Faces Showed God's Glory

- **Moses:** Spent time in the direct presence of God on Mount Sinai, causing his face to shine so brightly that the Israelites were initially afraid and he had to wear a veil (Ex 34:29–35).
- **Jesus:** Displayed the unmasked, inherent glory of God in His divine nature, most notably during the Transfiguration where His face shone like the sun (Matt 17:2; 2 Cor 4:6).

8. Both Were Called Prophets

- **Moses:** Was the premier prophet of Israel; indeed, Scripture tells us specifically, *"There has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face"* (Deut 34:10).
- **Jesus:** During His triumphal entry into Jerusalem in Passion Week, the crowds explicitly declared, *"This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee"* (Matt 21:11).

9. Both Were Shepherds of God's Flock

- **Moses:** Spent decades as a literal shepherd tending Jethro's flock in Midian before transitioning to shepherd God's people out of Egypt (Ex 3:1; Ps 77:20).
- **Jesus:** Explicitly designated Himself as the *"Good Shepherd"* who *"lays down His life for the sheep"* (John 10:11; Heb 13:20).

10. Both Were Providers of Life-Giving Water

- **Moses:** Struck the rock at Horeb by God's command, bringing physical water gushing out to save a thirsty nation in the desert (Ex 17:6; Num 20:11).
- **Jesus:** Offered spiritual *"living water,"* stating that whoever believes in Him will never thirst, with rivers of living water flowing from within them (John 4:14, 7:37–39).

11. Both Provided Bread from Heaven

- **Moses:** Was instrumental in providing daily physical manna from heaven to feed the starving Israelites in the wilderness (Ex 16:4–15).
- **Jesus:** Described Himself as the true *"Bread of God"* and the *"Bread of Life"* who came down from heaven to grant eternal life (John 6:33–35).

12. Both Were Workers of Mighty Signs and Wonders

- **Moses:** Performed unprecedented plagues, parted the Red Sea, and executed miraculous signs to demonstrate God's power (Ex 7–14).
- **Jesus:** Performed countless miracles—healing the sick, calming storms, casting out demons, and raising the dead—to validate His divine authority (Acts 2:22; John 20:30–31).

13. Both Are Associated with Mountain-Top Revelation

- **Moses:** Received the Ten Commandments and covenantal terms on Mount Sinai (Ex 34:28).
- **Jesus:** Delivered the foundational teachings of the Kingdom of God (the Sermon on the Mount) from a mountain (Matt 5–7).

14. Both Lifted Up a Healing Object

- **Moses:** Lifted up the bronze serpent on a pole in the wilderness so that anyone bitten by fiery serpents who looked at it would live (Num 21:8–9).
- **Jesus:** Explicitly compared this event to Himself, stating that the Son of Man must be lifted up on a cross so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life (John 3:14–15).

15. Both Appointed Lesser Leaders and Judges

- **Moses:** Appointed seventy elders and judges to help govern, bear the burden, and guide the community of Israel under his authority (Num 11:16–17).
- **Jesus:** Appointed the twelve apostles (and later seventy disciples) to launch the global proclamation of the Kingdom and shepherd the early church (Luke 6:13, 10:1).

16. Both Willing Abandoned Their Status for the Good of Others

- **Moses:** Though raised as a prince in Pharaoh's palace with immense wealth and privilege, he chose to renounce his status and identify with his suffering, enslaved brethren (Heb 11:24–26).
- **Jesus:** Though existing in the form of God and possessing all divine glory, He voluntarily emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant to redeem humanity (Phil 2:5–8).

17. Both Were Intercessors for Sinners

- **Moses:** Interceded passionately for the rebellious Israelites after the golden calf incident, even asking God to blot his own name out of His book if it meant sparing the people (Ex 32:31–32).
- **Jesus:** Serves as the ultimate intercessor for humanity—even praying for those executing Him ("*Father, forgive them*") and perpetually interceding for believers at the right hand of God (Heb 7:25; Luke 23:34).

18. Both Are Described as Supreme in Meekness and Humility

- **Moses:** Described in Scripture as the most humble (meek) man on the face of the earth (Num 12:3).
- **Jesus:** Described Himself as gentle and humble in heart, inviting weary souls to find true rest in Him (Matt 11:29).

19. Both Provided Deliverance from Bondage

- **Moses:** Was instrumental in delivering the Israelites from physical slavery under the Egyptian empire (Deut 33:4–5).
- **Jesus:** Spiritually delivers humanity from the slavery of sin, death, and the power of darkness (John 8:34–36), a theme celebrated eternally in the "*Song of Moses and the Lamb*" sung by the redeemed in heaven (Rev 15:3).

20. Both Provided a Memorial Ordinance

- **Moses:** Instituted the Passover feast to be observed perpetually in remembrance of Israel's physical deliverance from Egypt (Ex 12:14, 24–27).
- **Jesus:** Instituted the Lord's Supper to be observed perpetually in remembrance of our ultimate spiritual redemption (Luke 22:19–20).

From Shadow to Substance

This list is by no means exhaustive; there are many other ways Jesus echoes the life and ministry of Moses. But the writer of Hebrews presses us to look deeper: in all actuality, **Moses is the shadow while Jesus is the substance.**

Moses served as a type, but the archetype is Jesus Himself. Every grander, more glorious fulfillment finds its home in Him. As the writer of Hebrews reminds us:

5 Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, 6 but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. (Heb 3:5–6a, ESV)

Moses was indeed faithful *in* the house as a servant, but Jesus stands *over* the house as Lord—because He is the very One who built the house.

In closing: In these 20 parallels and far beyond, we find the glorious person of Jesus wonderfully typified in the life of Moses, beckoning us to look past the servant and fix our eyes fully on the Son.