



December 23, 2007

## *Prophets: Moses*

Aside from Christ, one of the most prominent figures from the scriptures is that of Moses. The ambassador of God who led the Hebrews from Egyptian bondage and brought the people before God at Mount Sinai, is known even to those who have only a casual familiarity with the Bible. Moses is a powerful figure as a prophet and it is hard for us to imagine that such an individual would have weaknesses, misgivings or failings, and yet, the life of Moses shows that God will accomplish his purposes in spite of human failures. It also shows us that righteous humans are not perfect, but our attitude toward God is to do the best that we are able to do. Moses had a special relationship with God as no one else on Earth can claim. As he received the Law and communed with God on the mountain he was literally in the presence of God. Moses requested to see the “glory” of God. The Lord replied, ***“Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.”*** (Ex 33.20). God went on then to explain what he would show Moses. ***“And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.”*** (Ex 33.22-23). As the book of Deuteronomy comes to a close, a note concerning Moses is made concerning his relationship with God. ***“And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face...”*** (Deut 34.10). Not only was Moses faced with a daunting task commanded by God, he was also to be entrusted with a law that would prepare a nation for the coming of the Messiah. Because of this Moses stands out not only as a prophet, but as a type of Christ. A type is a foreshadow or prefigure of something else that is to come, and will possess the same characteristics as that which is being represented. In this sense Moses is not only a prophet, but is a living prophecy himself. Moses told of the coming of a prophet like him that God would raise up from among their brethren (Deut 18.18-20) and when this

occurred, the people were to heed the words of this prophet. We know that he spoke of Christ. Moses was a lawgiver, appointed by God, as Christ is a lawgiver who has revealed to us the words of his father that were given to him (John 17.8). The humanity of Moses shows us that we can overcome any obstacle that we face in doing what God would have us to do. Moses tried to get out of this responsibility when God appeared to him in the burning bush, claiming that he was not eloquent and could not speak well (Ex 4.10). God finally appointed Aaron, Moses’ brother, as his spokesman to accompany him when facing Pharaoh (Ex 4.14). As the work progressed there are several instances in which Moses became weary of the things and situations that confronted him. At one point he made a very critical request of the Lord. ***“And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.”*** (Num 11.15). God provided a solution for this and Moses continued in the work that God wanted him to do (Num 11.16-17). At other times, God repented of delivering the people and offered to Moses to destroy the children of Israel and make a nation of his offspring. Like Christ, Moses interceded for the people saving them from certain destruction. Moses stated to God, ***“Now if thou shalt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying, Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he swore unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness.”*** (Num 14.15-16). This may well have been a test for Moses to cast him in this role and thus model the coming of Christ whose own life and deliverance Moses mirrored. Moses however was mortal and died, buried by God (Deut 34.5-6) after which Satan wanted the body but was denied such access (Jude 9). Moses lived faithfully and while we will not be called on to do the things that he did, we can be assured that we have the help and strength of God to get through this life as did Moses.

TLC