

## We're Not Giving Up Moses for Lent

**Jesus said: “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote of Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?” (John 5:46-47, Modern English Version)**

When I was a child, I remember that as Easter approached each year that the Cecil B. DeMille film *The Ten Commandments*, starring Charlton Heston as Moses, would be shown on television. I'm not positive, but I believe this movie still airs annually at this time of the year. I used to think it was odd that a movie about Moses would be on television as we would be getting ready to celebrate Holy Week and Easter. When I got older, I of course understood why this movie was appropriately shown when it was each year. For not only is it the time of the year that the Jews celebrate Passover, but Passover was also the day that our Lord instituted His Holy Supper and died for all the sins of the world. For Jesus laid down His life as our sacrificial lamb to pay the penalty that you and I deserve for all our rebellion against the Ten Commandments – dying upon the cross at Golgotha and rising again three days later.

You know, hearing from Moses truly is appropriate during Lent. For Jesus said that Moses “*wrote of [Him].*” In fact, Jesus asked: “*If you do not believe [Moses'] writings, how will you believe My words?*” See, Moses not only led God's people out of their slavery in Egypt, parted the Red Sea, received the Ten Commandments, and led God's people in the wilderness for forty years, but he also wrote about his experience. In fact, he penned the very first book of the Bible. Although some modern critical scholars disagree, the authorship of the first five books of the Old Testament (called the Pentateuch) have traditionally been attributed to Moses. The Old Testament itself calls this portion of Scripture “*the Book of Moses*” (2 Chronicles 35:12; Ezra 6:18; Nehemiah 13:1, ESV). And in the New Testament Jesus also made reference to “*the book of Moses*” (Mark 12:26, ESV). And following His resurrection from the dead, Jesus even told His disciples: “*All things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses... concerning Me*” (Luke 24:44, Modern English Version).

See, to doubt that Moses wrote the Pentateuch is to deny what the Bible, and even our Lord Himself, tells us. For “*Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord*” (Exodus 24:4a, ESV). And when we hear Jesus say “*if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote of Me,*” we're tempted to immediately think of Moses' words: “*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*” (Deuteronomy 18:15, ESV). The Apostle Peter said that Moses was pointing to Jesus in this passage (Acts 3:22), and so did the deacon Stephen (Acts 7:37).

But you know, Moses mentions Jesus a whole lot more than in the eighteenth chapter of Deuteronomy. He tells us about the promise of Jesus throughout the Book of Genesis. For as we learned last year in our Bible study on Genesis, the Gospel promise was first given (and then spoken repeatedly) in the first book of the Old Testament. And this Lenten season we're going to meditate upon the Gospel in Genesis in our sermon series for this year's mid-week Lenten worship services. We're not giving up Moses for Lent.

So, join us on the Wednesday nights throughout Lent. For as “*Philip... said to [Nathanael], “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, as well as the prophets, wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph”* (John 1:45, Modern English Version). Therefore, we again journey with Jesus to the cross this Lenten season – rejoicing that “*[Moses] wrote of [Him].*”

Blessed Lententide. See you at worship,  
Pastor