

Week of October 28-November 4

GREATER THAN MOSES

Scripture Reading: Read Hebrews 3

Charlton Heston played him on the big screen in the movie The Ten Commandments. DreamWorks Animation produced a successful animated version of his life entitled, The Prince of Egypt. He is a towering figure in the Old Testament. His name? Moses.

Raised under the tutelage of Pharaoh's daughter in the courts of Egypt, he fled to the backside of the desert at the age of 40 after killing an Egyptian. At the age of 80, he met with God at the burning bush and, however reluctantly at first, became God's deliverer of his people, Israel, from the bondage of Egypt. He led them through the Red Sea, gave them God's laws including the Ten Commandments, established the sacrificial system and erected the tabernacle under God's direction, and took them to the edge of the Promised Land. His presence dominates the Old Testament. Although his authority was challenged continually by the Israelites when he was alive, they revered him following his death (Joshua 1:17). In Jesus' day, in fact, the Jewish leaders claimed to be Moses' disciples (John 9:28). It was for this reason that Jesus challenged the religious leaders to actually listen to what Moses wrote since he prophesied about Him (John 5:45-46). The author of Hebrews attests to this as well (Hebrews 3:5). One such example is found in Deuteronomy 18:14-22 where Moses prophesies that the Lord will raise up a prophet like him (compare John 1:44-45).

As important as Moses was in Old Testament history, though, he was only a faithful servant according to the author of Hebrews (3:5). He was not the whole play but simply the first act. It is Jesus who is God's finale, the one who brings the amazing gospel of grace. This is confirmed by the apostle John in John 1:17 when he writes, "...*the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*"

To Jewish believers who were struggling in their faith and wondering if it was worth it to continue on with Christ or to return instead to the secure confines and safety of Judaism, the author of Hebrews makes it clear that the Jew's hope is not in going backwards to Moses but in continuing forward with Jesus. He was the one upon whom they were to fix their thoughts. As Hebrews notes, Jesus is "*the apostle and high priest whom we confess*" (Hebrews 3:1) something Moses never was. He has been found "*worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself*" (3:3) since he is "*faithful as a son over God's house*" (3:6) whereas Moses was only a servant. In other words, Moses was a great prophet and a faithful servant but Jesus is a faithful Son and great God; the one we are to love, worship and follow. He, indeed, is greater than Moses.

Action Step & Prayer Focus:

In Luke 24:44, Jesus told his disciples that everything that was written in the Law of Moses had to be fulfilled. Reflect on what Jesus could have shared from the Law (Genesis through Deuteronomy) that pointed to him, his ministry or his death and resurrection. Pray that you may keep your eyes focused on Jesus (Hebrews 3:1).

Take-a-way: *Moses was the first act but Jesus is God's grand finale!*