

MOSES - THE LEGISLATOR
The Old Testament Today
Banska Bystrica, 28th March 2021

ὁ νόμος διὰ Μωϋσέως ἐδόθη, ἡ χάρις καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐγένετο	John 1:17 ... <u>the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ</u>
πλείονος γὰρ οὗτος δόξης παρὰ Μωϋσῆν ἤξιώται, καθ' ὅσον πλείονα τιμὴν ἔχει τοῦ οἴκου ὁ κατασκευάσας αὐτόν	Heb 3:3 For <u>Jesus</u> has been counted worthy of <u>more glory than Moses</u> - as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself
הַסֵּתֶר לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְהַנְּגִלָה לָנוּ וּלְבָנֵינוּ עַד-עוֹלָם לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת-כָּל-דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת	Dt 29:29 "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, <u>that we may do all the words of this law.</u>
Σκιὰν γὰρ ἔχων ὁ νόμος τῶν μελλόντων ἀγαθῶν,	Heb 10:1 the law has but a shadow of the good things to come
Μὴ οὖν τις ὑμᾶς κρινέτω ἐν βρώσει καὶ ἐν πόσει ἢ ἐν μέρει ἑορτῆς ἢ νεομηνίας ἢ σαββάτων· ¹⁷ ἃ ἔστιν σκιά τῶν μελλόντων, τὸ δὲ σῶμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ.	Col 2:16-17 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷ These are a <u>shadow</u> of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. MOSES – THE WORD OF GOD

- Moses' character → man (the danger of overestimating)
- Moses' calling → God's spokesman (larger than life) → danger of underestimation (Moses, the man "disappears" behind the Spirit of God speaking and working through him.)

- **Luke 24:44** Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in (1) the Law of Moses and (2) the Prophets and (3) the Psalms must be fulfilled."

0.2. MOSES AND ISRAEL'S RENEWALS

- Restoration according to Moses →
- **[Josiah] 2 Chronicles 34:30** And the king went up to the house of the LORD, with all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the Levites, all the people both great and small. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD.
- **[The returnees] Ezra 3:2** Then arose Jeshua the son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel with his kinsmen, and they built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God.

0.3. MOSES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Abraham (Lk 16) → **Luke 16:29-31** But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"
- **Mt 17:4-5** And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."
- **Mt 23:1-3** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ² "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, ³ so practice and observe whatever they tell you- but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice. (Τότε ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλάλησεν τοῖς ὄχλοις καὶ τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ ² λέγων· ἐπὶ τῆς Μωϋσέως καθέδρας ἐκάθισαν οἱ γραμματεῖς καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι. ³ πάντα οὖν ὅσα ἐὰν εἴπωσιν ὑμῖν ποιήσατε καὶ τηρεῖτε, κατὰ δὲ τὰ ἔργα αὐτῶν μὴ ποιεῖτε· λέγουσιν γὰρ καὶ οὐ ποιοῦσιν)

1. MOSES – THE LEADER

- "Man of God" (in Ezra)
- the "king" (PHILO) → [Wayne A. MEEKS] Philo's *Life of Moses* depicted the "Lawgiver" and "Protoprophet" of the Jews as a perfect example of Hellenism's ideal king...
- **Psalm 77:20** You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

1.1. THE SPIRIT OF GOD

- **Numbers 11:17,25** And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone. ...**11:25** Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it

1.2. FAITH / OBEDIENCE

- leader under authority (EXOUSIA)
- **Exodus 3:12** He [the LORD] said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."
- **Exodus 14:14** The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent (לָכֵן וַאֲתֵם תַּחַרְשִׁינּוּ וַיִּלָּחֶם יְהוָה יְלֵחֶם)

1.3. MIRACLES / SIGNS

- power from God → (1) nature, (2) health, (3)
- **Exodus 4:1-9** Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The LORD did not appear to you.'" ² The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff." ³ And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. ⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail"- so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand- ⁵ "that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you." ⁶ Again, the LORD said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. ⁷ Then God said, "Put your hand back inside your cloak." So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. ⁸ "If they will not believe you," God said, "or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. ⁹ If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground."

2. MOSES – THE PROPHET

- **Dt 34:10** And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face

- **Ex 19:9** And the LORD said to Moses. "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever." When Moses told the words of the people to the LORD,

- → the word of God through Moses

2.1. RELIABILITY / AUTHENTICITY

- **Leviticus 1:1-2** The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, ² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them..."
- **Nu 12:6-8** And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. ⁷ Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"

2.2. DIGNITY

- **Exodus 31:18** And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony (שְׁנֵי לִחֵת הָעֵדוּת), tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.
- **Numbers 21:5-7** And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

3. MOSES – THE MEDIATOR

3x ascended to Sinai → God is holy (separate) although near ⇒ the necessity of mediation...

- **Psalm 99:6** Moses and Aaron were among his priests (בְּבָהֳנֵי מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן), Samuel also was among those who called upon his name. They called to the LORD, and he answered them

3.1. THE SINAI COVENANT

- conditional → “Old Testament”
- **Exodus 24:6-8** And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."
⁸ And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.
- **Jeremiah 31:31-32** "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

3.2. LAW (HOLINESS)

- the context → Exodus;
- Abraham (Gn 12:1-3) → Moses (“Be holy for I am holy”)
 - **Matthew 22:11-13** "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. ¹² And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
- emancipation of slaves → **Dt 4:6-7** Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' ⁷ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?
- John 1 → grace and truth → Jesus Christ
- Rom 7

4. TO REMEMBER

- Moses represents the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) as the highest OT authority (the TORAH).
- His authority was based on his calling and being filled with the Spirit of God.
- The Mosaic law gives us physical illustration of the thoroughness and seriousness of the demands of God’s holiness. Its fulfillment is in Christ (**Romans 10:4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes)
- The Spirit (power) and the Scriptures (truth) → in Moses we see them TOGETHER.