

## Life of Moses Series

This summer, I am teaching a series on the Life of Moses. My hope is this series will grow us spiritually, as well as expand our appreciation of the Old Testament. Below are a few principles that will guide my teaching on the Old Testament story of the life of Moses.

**One:** The Old Testament is neither inferior nor incomplete in relationship to the New Testament. Think of the Old Testament as an acorn and the New Testament as a tree. The entire tree is contained in an acorn yet unfolded. The harvest of truth in the New Testament is revealed in seed form in the Old Testament. The tree of the New Testament is the unfolded acorn of the Old Testament.

**Two:** The Old Testament helps us more fully understand the New Testament and vice-versa. Tim Keller uses the analogy of the human brain. Our brains enable us to be people of logic and imagination. One side of the brain gives the capacity for analysis; the other side the capacity for intuition. This can be helpful in appreciating the relationship between the Testaments.

For example, in the book of Exodus, we learn about the Passover. Exodus 12 gives a vivid picture of the obedience, bloody sacrifice and deliverance of the Passover. The New Testament teaches Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb. The Old Testament gives us the picture. The New Testament gives us the explanation.

**Three:** The Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures reveal One and the same God. I have heard people say, "The Old Testament reveals a God of wrath; the New Testament a God of love." An early church theologian, Marcion (85-160 AD), was one of the earliest proponents of this view. Another 2<sup>nd</sup> century theologian, Polycarp (69-155), taught by the Apostle John himself, refuted Marcion's view. The 2<sup>nd</sup> century church as well as historical Christianity roundly rejected this false dichotomy between the God of the Old Testament and New Testament.

**Four:** The Bible reveals one and the same God and a consistent and continuous story. The story of redemption in seed form in the Old Testament is unfolded in the harvest of the New Testament. The heart of the redemption story throughout the whole of Scripture is God's unfailing love. The Creator God loves His people, works for and in them, not because of them, but because He is a God abounding in love. The Old Testament word that best describes God's redemptive story is God's "hesid"; the New Testament word, which captures it, is God's "grace." God's "hesid" and "grace" are ultimately revealed and fulfilled in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Five:** The life and story of Moses is primarily about God not Moses or us. In my teaching on the life of Moses, the primary questions are, "What does his life teach us about God?" and "What does his life teach us about Christ?" Remember what the Resurrected Christ taught Cleopas and his friend on the Emmaus Road. *"And*

*beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all of Scriptures concerning himself”(Luke 24:27). Jesus advocates a Christ-centered approach to the Old Testament.*

Today, in many churches, the popular approach of teaching the Old Testament is the allegorical method. Moses’ life is an analogy of our life. Therefore, the primary questions are, “What does the life of Moses teach us about our life?” or, “How can we live and lead more like Moses?” A typical sermon using this approach may be, “How do you confront and conquer the Pharaoh’s in your life?” My concern with this approach, while relevant and practical with life principles and memorable clichés, it can miss the heart of the message of the Scriptures.....God.

In the life of Moses series, we will hopefully learn about Moses and glean practical insights and relevant applications for our lives. But my conviction is that Moses’ life and story is not primarily about Moses or us. It is about God. The story ark is God’s redemptive narrative culminated in Jesus Christ for us.

Great peace in the Lord,  
Eddie