

# From the Law of Moses to the Covenant of Christ

## A Study in Comparisons

***“Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come” (1Cor. 10:11).***



**Co-Authored by Steve Melton and Paul Blake**

## Table of Contents

<b><u>Lesson</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
Lesson One:	A Comparison of the Journeys	3
Lesson Two:	A Comparison of Moses and Jesus	7
Lesson Three:	A Comparison of the Temples	10
Lesson Four:	An Examination of the Relationships of God and Jesus to Christians and the Church	13

This series of lessons was developed in July 2020 by Steve Melton for the adult Bible class of the Trilacoochee church of Christ. It was edited and formatted by Paul Blake and is presented for your edification and encouragement.

## Lesson One: A Comparison of the Journeys

There are multiple similarities between the Exodus of the Children of Israel from the land of Egypt to the Promised Land and the pilgrimage of Christians through this life to the life that is to come in Heaven. The experiences of Israel on their journey illustrate for disciples of the Lord the obstacles on their path as well as the blessings that God gives to them to sustain the faithful along the way. *“But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God”* (John 1:12).

### The Exodus

- Slaves to Pharaoh - Ex. 1:18-14; Acts 7:6-7
- Pharaoh is master - Ex. 5:1-2
- People cry out for help - Ex. 2:23; Psalm 12:5
- God sends Moses - Ex. 3:4-7, 10, 6:5
- Plagues confirm Moses is of God - Ex. 4:1, 3:19-20
- Passover, lamb's blood, unleavened bread - Ex 12:12-14
- Pharaoh pursues slaves - Ex. 14:5-8
- People baptized in Red Sea and Moses - 1Cor. 10:1-2
- People come out a new, free nation - Ex. 19:6-7
- Some complain; want to return to Egypt - Num. 21:4-5
- Given water and manna for food - Num. 20:8; Ex. 16:14-15
- God writes Ten Commandments on stone - Ex. 24:12

### The Christian Life

- Slaves to sin - Rom. 6:17-18; Gal 4:9, 5:1
- Satan is our master - 1John 3:8
- Tired of old life of sin and cry for help - Psalm 51:12; Eph. 2:12
- God sends Jesus into our lives - Matt. 11:28-30
- Miracles confirm Jesus is of God - John 9:33, 20:30-31
- Sacrifice Christ, shed blood, Lord's Supper - Matt. 26:26-29
- Satan tries reclaim growing in the faith - 1Peter 5:8; Matt 13:19-22
- We are baptized into Christ - Rom. 6:3-6
- Free from sin new creature in God - 2Cor. 5:17
- Some babes in Christ return to old life - Heb. 11:15; Matt. 9:62
- Given the word, bread of life, living water - John 6:48-51, 4:14-15
- God writes Christ's law on our hearts - Heb. 10:16

- God's presence at tabernacle/temple given - Ex. 29:43, 46
- Spies afraid of responsibilities - Num. 13:31-32
- Wandered 40 years in wilderness - Num. 14:34
- Nadab and Abihu try to change God's law - Lev. 10:1-2
- Many Jews fall in the wilderness - Heb. 3:17 - 4:2
- People sin, bronze serpent raised, saved - Num. 21:7-9
- Attacked by and war with outside nations - Ex. 17:8-13
- Struggles within nation, Korah's rebellion - Num. 16:1-5
- Crossing Jordan to Promised Land - Joshua 1:1-3, 3:14-17
- Claim the land of milk and honey - Deut. 26:8-9
- Abraham's land promise kept - Deut. 7:12-13, 26:15-19
- Temple of God (Holy Spirit) our bodies - 1Cor. 6:19; Matt. 5:16
- Many fear to commit to service/work - Matt. 25:24-26; James 1:22
- We wander an average of 40 years in our spiritual lives - Rev 2:10
- Many try to change God's word - 2John 9-11
- Many Christians lose faith and fall - 2Peter 2:20-22
- We sin, look to Christ raised, forgiven - John 12:32; 1John 1:8-9
- Church attacked by worldly sources - Gal. 1:13; Dan. 2:44
- Struggles from within the church - Rev. 2:13-29
- Cross death's river to our promised land - Phil. 1:23; 2Tim. 4:6-8
- Claim our land, city of heaven - Rev. 22:14
- God's promise of heaven kept - Rev. 21:1-7

Conclusion: These things happened and were written as examples for us!  
1Cor. 10:1-12

### **Questions:**

1. Are there slaves in the Christian Dispensation today? Slaves to what?
2. Israelites were slaves to Pharaoh; in our Christian walk, who represents Pharaoh in our lives?
3. For those who are tired of the life of sin, to whom should we turn?

4. God sent Moses in Egypt. Who did God send for us?

5. What are some of the plagues and miracles of Moses?

What are some of the miracles of Jesus?

Why were the miracles done by each?

6. Compare the first Passover with the sacrifice of Christ. What are some similarities?

7. Pharaoh pursues the slaves in Egypt. Who pursues those wanting to come out of the world of sin?

8. We are baptized into Christ. Who were the Israelites baptized into? How?

9. What was the new nation formed after the Red Sea crossing?

What nation or kingdom do Christians become a part of after baptism?

10. Over time, some Israelites wanted to return to Egypt. What comparison can be made about some new Christians?

11. Israelites were given water and manna for food. What are Christians to live on spiritually?

12. The Ten Commandments were written on stone. What are Christ's laws written on?

13. God had Moses build the tabernacle. What is and where is the temple today?

14. Some are afraid to serve and work for the Lord now. What was an example of this during Moses's time?

15. How long were the wilderness wanderings? Can that be compared to an average length of time one is a Christian? How?

16. Today, many try to change God's word. Who tried to change God's law in Moses' time?

17. When we sin we look to Jesus for salvation. What did children of Israel look to when they sinned?

18. During the wanderings, Midian attacked the people. Does that happen today? In what way?

19. Who led a rebellion against Moses? Can this happen in the church today? How?

20. Finally, children of God crossed the Jordan River to the Promised Land. What do we cross and when do we cross it?

21. What is our land of milk and honey?

22. God's promises to Abraham were kept. What were they? What are our promises?

## Lesson Two: A Comparison of Moses and Jesus

There are multiple similarities between Moses the servant of God and Jesus the Son of God. A comparison of the two rescuers and redeemers of the people of God and the servants and spokesmen for God will illuminate the intricacy of God's eternal plan for the salvation of humankind. *"And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him'"* (Deut. 18:17-18).

Read 1Cor. 10:1-12

### Moses the Servant of God

Heb. 3:5

- People needed a savior; Moses was sent - Ex. 3:1-10
- Pharaoh tried to kill Moses as a baby - Ex. 1:15-16, 22
- Moses' ancestors moved to Egypt for protection from famine - Gen. 42:1-2, 45:17-18
- Moses was born an Israelite, becomes a prince - Ex. 2:1-10
- At first Moses was rejected - Ex. 6:8-9
- Moses did miracles - Ex. 4:30-31
- Moses was baptized under the Red Sea - Ex. 14:21-22; 1Cor. 10:1-2

### Jesus the Son of God

Heb. 3:6

- People needed salvation from sin; Jesus was sent - Luke 2:25-32; Eph. 2:1-6
- Herod tried to kill Jesus as a baby - Matt. 2:1-8, 16
- Jesus' family fled to Egypt for protection from Herod - Matt. 2:13-15
- Jesus was born an Israelite and is Prince of Peace with God and our King - Isa. 9:6-7; Gal. 4:4-5
- Jesus was rejected by Jews - Mark 6:3; Luke 4:29; Matt. 21:42, 45-46
- Jesus did miracles - John 9:32-33, 20:30-31
- Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan - Matt. 3:13-15

- Moses received glory on Mount Sinai - Ex. 34:29-30; 2Cor. 3:7-8
- Moses mediated between God and Israel - Deut. 5:1-33
  - Moses delivered God's terms of the covenant to Israel - Ex. 24:2-4; Gal. 3:19
  - Moses pleaded with God on Israel's behalf - Ex. 32:9-14; Psalm 106:23
- Moses entered the wilderness 40 years - Num. 14:33-34
- Moses was tempted in the wilderness by trials of the people - Ex. 16:1-3; Num. 14:1-5
- Moses died this side of the Promised Land - Deut. 34:4-5
- Angels attended to Moses body - Jude 9
- Moses became the great adored lawgiver of the OT - Deut. 34:10; Acts 7:35-38
- Jesus was glorified by the Holy Spirit as a dove - Matt. 3:16-17, 17:1-5
- Jesus mediates between God and humankind - 1Tim. 2:5
  - Jesus delivered God's terms of the new covenant with humankind - John 1:17; Heb. 1:1-3, 8:6
  - Jesus advocates to God on behalf of humankind - 1John 2:1-2; Heb. 7:25-27
- Jesus entered the wilderness 40 days - Matt. 4:1-2
- Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by Satan - Matt. 4:1-11
- Jesus died this side of Heaven - Luke 23:44-47; Heb. 2:9, 14
- Angels attended Jesus' resurrection - Matt. 28:1-7
- Jesus became the great adored Savior and Lawgiver of the NT - Heb. 1:1-3

### **Questions:**

1. Moses and Jesus were Saviors. What salvation did each offer?
2. Pharaoh tried to kill Moses as a baby. Who tried to kill Jesus as a baby?
3. Both Moses' and Jesus' families fled to Egypt. Why?
4. Moses was born an Israelite and became a prince. What position did Jesus receive?



5. Moses was rejected by the people at first. Who rejected Jesus?
6. Both Moses and Jesus did miracles. For what reason did they do miracles?
7. Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. Where was Moses baptized?
8. Where was Moses glorified? Where was Jesus glorified and how?
9. Both mediated between man and God. Where is Jesus mediating now?
10. How long were Moses and Jesus in the wilderness?
11. Who tempted Moses in the wilderness? Who tempted Jesus in the wilderness?
12. Both died physically before reaching the Promised Land. What proof is there that they made it there?
13. Angels attended to the bodies of Moses and Jesus. Who attended to Moses?
14. What two testaments did each institute?

## Lesson Three: A Comparison of the Temples

There are multiple similarities between the tabernacle of Moses and temple in Jerusalem when compared to the Christians' temple. Those comparisons will help disciples to better understand the importance of maintaining the spiritual purity of their bodies as well as how essential it is to glorify God in their daily lives. *"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are"* (1Cor. 3:16-17). *"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's"* (1Cor. 6:19-20).

Read 1Cor. 10:1-12

### The Temple of Moses

- Aaron is the first high priest - Ex. 40:12-15
- Priests serve God in temple separate from tribes - 2Chron. 23:6; Lev. 22:2; Heb. 9:6
- Priests offer sacrifices on the great altar in the temple compound - Lev. 3:1-5; 17:1-6; 1Chron. 6:48-49
- Priests were cleansed in the water basin leading near the temple and were purified - Ex. 40:11-13, 30-32

### The Christians' Temple

- Jesus is our High Priest - Heb. 5:1-6, 4:14-16
- Christians as priests serve God separate from the world - 2Cor. 6:17; Eph. 2:21-22
- Christ is the perfect sacrifice - Heb. 9:11-14
  - Christians offer sacrifices as priests - 1Peter 2:5; Phil. 2:17
    - Sacrifice of fleshly desires - Gal. 5:24
    - Sacrifice of singing - Heb. 13:15
    - Sacrifice of giving to God - 2Cor. 8:3; Mk. 12:43-44
- Christians are made priests purified through repentance and water baptism by cleansing blood of Jesus - Rev. 1:5; 1John 1:7

- Priests had the right to enter the Holy Place of the temple or tabernacle of Moses' time - Deut. 33:10
- The lampstand of light is on the left wall; pure oil lights temple - Num. 8:2-4; Lev. 24:2-4
- In the back of the Holy Place in front of veil wall is the altar of incense that fills room - Ex. 30:1-9; Psalm 141:2
- Veil of the temple separates the priests from the Presence of God in the Holy of Holies - Ex. 40:3; Lev. 16:2; Num. 18:6-7
- High priest goes through the veil to mediate for the people with two sacrifices in the presence of God - Ex. 25:21-22; Lev. 16:5-22
- In the Holy Place on the right wall is the table of showbread; once each week new bread is offered; eaten together with high priest and priests along with drink offerings - Num. 4:7; Lev. 24:5-9
- Our bodies are the temple of God and the Holy Spirit; our holy place - 1Cor. 3:16-17, 6:19-20
- Our lampstand and light is the word of God - Prov. 6:23
  - Jesus is the light of the world - John 12:46, 1:4-9
  - The Bible illuminates the temple of the mind - 2Peter 1:19; Eph. 5:13
- Prayers of priests become a fragrant aroma to God and others around - Rev. 5:8, 8:3-4; Eph. 6:18
- The veil of death separates our body's temple from the presence of God in the Holy of Holies of heaven - John 5:24, 6:40; 1Cor. 15:54-57
- Jesus, our High Priest, has gone through the veil of death to the Holy of Holies of Heaven, as a sacrifice for the people and to mediate for them - Heb. 9:1-14, 23-26, 10:4-14
- Priests once each week eat the Lord's Supper communing with our High Priest Jesus - Matt. 26:26-29; 1Cor. 10:16

### Questions:

1. Who was the first high priest in Israel? Who was the last high priest of God?

2. Why are priests of God separate from the people of the world?

3. What are the types of sacrifices offered by the priests at the tabernacle?

What are the types of sacrifices priests make now?

4. How were the priests cleansed before entering the tabernacle?

How is one cleansed now to become a priest?

5. Only priests had the right to enter what?

Where does the temple of God reside now?

6. What was the fuel for the lampstand in the tabernacle?

What is the light in the temple today?

7. What was the purpose of the altar of incense in the Holy Place?

What is the fragrant aroma in the Holy Place now?

8. What separates the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies?

What is the veil that separates the priests from God's presence now?

9. What was the purpose of the High Priest to enter into the Holy of Holies?

Who is our High Priest now and what is His role now?

10. How often was the shewbread eaten? By whom?

What is an act of worship that is similar to that now? With whom do the priests eat it?

## Lesson Four: An Examination of the Relationships of God and Jesus to Christians and the Church

From the beginning, God has said, *“Therefore say to the children of Israel: ‘I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians’”* (Ex. 6:6-7). He desires no less for us under the covenant of Christ. *“Therefore ‘Come out from among them And be separate,’ says the Lord. ‘Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters,’ Says the LORD Almighty”* (2Cor. 6:17-18).

### God and Jesus

- God - Gen. 17:8; Heb. 8:10
- Father - Psalm 103:13; Prov. 3:12
- Jesus, our Older Brother - Heb. 2:11; Matt. 12:49-50
- Great Shepherd - Isa. 40:11; John 10:11,14; Heb. 13:20
- Groom/Husband - Isa. 54:5; Jer. 3:14; Mark 2:19-20
- Captain - Heb. 2:10; Rev. 19:11-15
- Vine Dresser - John 15:1-2
- Teacher - Matt. 23:8,10; John 13:13
- Redeemer - Job 19:25; Isa. 63:16; Rev. 5:9
- Master - Mal. 1:6; Luke 12:35-38
- Employer - Luke 10:1-2
- Deliverer - Psalm 18:2

### Christians and the Church

- People - 2Cor. 6:16; Rev. 21:3
- Children - John 1:12; Rom. 8:16; 1John 3:1-2
- Younger brothers and sisters - Rom. 8:17
- Sheep - Psalm 100:3; John 10:4
- Bride/wife (Church) - Rev. 21:9-10; Eph. 5:23-24
- Soldiers - 2Tim. 2:3-4; Eph. 6:10-18
- Vine branches - John 15:5-6
- Disciples - Luke 6:40; John 8:31, 13:35
- The redeemed - Isa. 62:12; 1Peter 1:18; Gal. 3:13
- Servant - Luke 17:7-10; 1Cor. 9:16-17; Titus 1:1; James 1:1; 2Peter 1:1; Jude 1
- Laborer - John 4:34-38; Col. 3:23-24
- Bound - Rom. 11:26-27; Heb. 2:14-15

- King - 1Tim. 6:13-16
- Rock and Refuge - Psalm 71:1-3; Isa. 28:16
- Great Physician - John 12:40; James 5:15-16
- The Hope - Psalm 71:5; 1Tim. 1:1
- Author - Heb. 5:9, 12:2
- Judge - Gen. 18:25; Acts 17:31
- Subjects - Eph. 2:19; Heb. 12:28
- The vulnerable - Heb. 6:17-19; Psalm 94:21-22
- The sick - Mark 2:17; Psalm 38:3-6
- The hopeless - Eph. 2:12-13
- Readers - Eph. 3:3-5
- The judged - Rom. 14:10; 2Cor. 5:10

### **Questions:**

1. From the very beginning, what did God say about the kind of relationship He wants with human beings?
2. Since God is our Father, what is our relationship to Jesus Christ?
3. Why do we need a Shepherd? Who is our Shepherd and why was He chosen?
4. What is the relationship between Christ and the Church?  
  
How does His relationship to the Church illustrate the same relationship between Christian men and women?
5. What kind of battles are fought by soldiers under Christ's captaincy?
6. Why is it important for vines to be pruned? Who is the Vinedresser for Christians?
7. Why did we need a Redeemer? From what were we redeemed?
8. In what sense are Christians servants of the Lord? What kind of Master is He toward His servants?

9. A Proverb states that a laborer is worthy of his hire. What is the reward or salary of laborers in the vineyard of the Lord?

10. The Lord delivered us from bondage. In what were we once bound?

11. The Kingdom of the Lord is not a democracy. Who alone holds the authority to make and enforce the laws?

What is our role as subjects in that Kingdom?

12. From what does the Great Physician heal us?

What moves one to come to the Great Physician for healing?

13. Why were we without hope?

By what means did God restore that hope?

14. What did the apostle Paul say would give us understanding of God's eternal plan of redemption?

15. We are reassured by the fact that Jesus Christ will be our Judge. What qualifies Him to be the Judge?