

Jesus and Moses – Covenantal Priesthood

Old Covenant Priesthood**Moses****The 1: the High Priest, Aaron [Ex 28:1]****The 3: Aaron, Nadah, Abihu [Ex 24:9-11]****The 12: Twelve Pillars/"Young Men" of the Twelve Tribes [Ex 24:4-5]****The 70: Priestly Elders of Israel [Ex 24:9; Num 11:16]****Jesus and His Disciples****Jesus****The 1: Peter, chief of the Apostles [Mt 16:18]****The 3: Peter, James, John [Mt 17:1-8; 26:36-46]****The 12: Twelve Apostles [Mt 10:1-4]****The 70: Appointed and Sent Out [Lk 10:1-24]**

In the Gospel, particularly in Matthew's Gospel, we encounter Jesus as the fulfillment of Mosaic type, a Revelation that describes the life of the Christian people in terms of the Exodus:

- At Sinai Moses delivers the Law written by the hand of God [Ex 31:18]; in the Sermon on the Mount [Mt 5-7], Jesus is no intermediary, but the actual Lawgiver of the New Covenant
- Moses passed through the sea [Ex 15:21-22]; Jesus crosses the sea, commanding wind and waves [Mt 8:23-27]
- In the desert Moses distributes the manna sent by God [Ex 16]; Jesus gives bread to the multitude [Mt 14:13-21]
- At the Transfiguration [Mt 17:1-13] we encounter Moses and Elijah (the Law and the Prophets), the cloud, the voice of God, and even the booths the Peter wants to set up in conformance with the Feast of Tabernacles, a commemoration of Israel's tents during the Exodus; all points to Jesus as it's fulfillment
- Moses chooses 70 elders to assist him [Num 11:16]; Jesus sends out 70 disciples to do His work [Lk 10:1-24]

John's Gospel adds to this:

- God's glory filled the tabernacle in the desert [Ex 40:34-38]; in John's Prologue the Word is what the rabbis called the *shekinah*, the dwelling of God's glory [Jn 1:14]

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- In the desert Moses has the bronze serpent lifted up to heal; Jesus reveals Himself as the Reality of this type, the One “who must be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life” [Jn 3:14]
- Manna came down from heaven to feed God’s People [Ex 16]; Jesus came down as the “true bread from heaven...and gives life to the world” [Jn 6:32-33]
- Water gushed forth from the rock struck by Moses [Num 20:11]; Jesus (the Rock) shall be the source of “living water” [Jn 4:13-14; 7:37-39]. (See also Is 44:3; 55:1, 58:11)
- God went ahead of His People at night by a pillar of fire, giving them light to follow [Ex 13:21]; Jesus proclaims, “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” [Jn 8:12]
- The blood of the lamb protected God’s People from death at Passover [Ex 12:21-23]; Jesus, the Lamb of God, takes away the sin of the world and grants us eternal life [Jn 1:29]

Sts. Paul and Peter continue the Revelation, making Sacramental connections:

- Paul proclaims the crossing of the Red Sea during the Exodus [Ex 14:22] as a type of Baptism, and the manna from heaven and the water gushing from the rock as a type of Eucharist [1 Cor 10:1-4]
- Peter offers six elements of the Exodus experience [Ex 19:5-6] as Baptismal: girding of loins; rejection of Egypt’s fleshpots; freedom from slavery; blood of the spotless lamb; rock of living water; and God’s People as a “royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people” [1 Pt 2:9]

And then, in *Revelation*, John adds to the description of Christian life in Exodus terms:

- While the sacrificed lamb looks on, God’s enemies are punished by the plagues that afflicted Egypt [Rev 8-9]
- The “number of the sealed” – 144,000 – the 12 tribes of Israel now represent the Church and a new crossing of the Red Sea [Rev 15:2-3]

From all of the above we see that Exodus is filled with revelation about Jesus Christ and those He redeems.