

Moses – Part 2: Other Biblical References

Dale Siegelin, September 11, 2022

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Biblical References to Moses By name, pronoun or adjective

<u>Book/Section</u>	<u>Mentions</u>	<u>Verses</u>
Entire Bible	2,836	1,420
Law (Genesis – Deuteronomy)	2,457	1,315
Joshua	99	52
Remaining OT (Judges – Malachi)	97	65
Psalms	15	10
New Testament	183	105
Gospels	52	41
Acts	76	31*
* 24 of the verses are in Acts 7 – Stephen’s speech		
Pauline Epistles	13	11
Revelations	2	1**

** Rev 15:3 (ESV) – “And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God...”

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Lesson Overview

Other Biblical references to Moses

- Joshua
- Psalms
- Stephen's speech before being stoned
- Transfiguration of Jesus
- Faith Hall of Fame
- Moses' Life – Jeopardy Game (time permitting)

References to Moses

Outside the Pentateuch

- Malachi 4:4 – the last words of the Old Testament
 - Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.
- Hebrews 11:24-26 – from the “Faith Hall of Fame”
 - ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward,

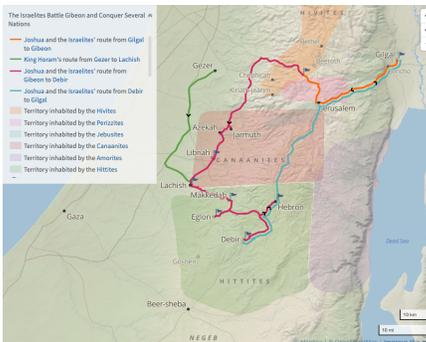
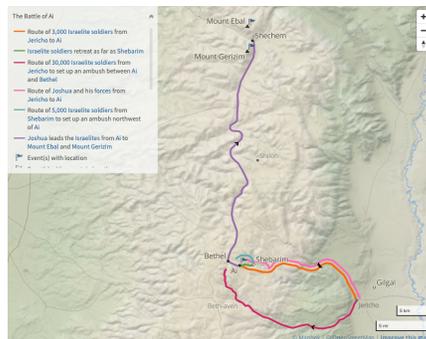
Joshua

Background

- In the Pentateuch
 - Assistant to Moses
 - One of the 12 spies
 - Successor to Moses
- Little mention of Joshua outside Pentateuch and book of Joshua
 - Unlike Moses

Book of Joshua

- Outline
 - Conquest (Josh 1-12)
 - Jericho (Josh 2-6)
 - Ai (Josh 7-8)
 - Gibeon (Josh 9-10)
 - Hazor (Josh 11)
 - Dividing the Land (Josh 13-24)
 - Joshua's final address (Josh 23-24)



Joshua

Parallels to Moses

- Yahweh appears to Moses in the burning bush (Exod 3:2–5)
 - Yahweh appears to Joshua as the divine warrior (Josh 5:13–15)
- Yahweh reassures Moses of his presence (Exod 3:12)
 - Yahweh reassures Joshua of his presence (Josh 1:5)
- Moses leads Israel in the miraculous crossing of the sea (Exod 14)
 - Joshua leads Israel in the miraculous crossing of the Jordan river (Josh 3)
- Moses intercedes for Israel before Yahweh (Num 14:13–19)
 - Joshua intercedes for Israel before Yahweh (Josh 7:6–9)
- Moses leads Israel in accepting Yahweh’s covenant (Exod 24)
 - Joshua leads Israel in renewing their commitment to Yahweh’s covenant (Josh 24)
- Moses delivers a farewell address (Deut 31)
 - Joshua delivers a farewell address (Josh 23)

Douglas Mangum, “Joshua the General, Son of Nun,” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

Joshua

Specific references to Moses in the Book of Joshua

- (Jos 3:7) The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.
- (Jos 4:14) On that day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they stood in awe of him just as they had stood in awe of Moses, all the days of his life.
- (Jos 8:31) just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, “an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool.” And they offered on it burnt offerings to the Lord and sacrificed peace offerings.
- (Jos 8:35) There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.
- (Jos 11:15) Just as the Lord had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses.

Moses Wrote One Psalm

Ps 90

- The only Psalm written by Moses
 - Believed to be one of the oldest Psalms
 - Likely written near the end of his life
 - In earlier times, often read at funerals, along with 1 Cor 15
 - “In the paraphrase by Isaac Watts, ‘*O God, our help in ages past*’, it has established itself as a prayer supremely matched to times of crisis.”
Kidner, Derek. Psalms 1–72. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries series, pp 327-328
- Listen to David Suchet* read this Psalm (NIV)
 - Follow along in your Bibles
 - What can we learn about Moses from this Psalm?

* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wR3Oo9oNtok>

[Search “David Suchet youtube psalm 90”]

References to Moses

Ending the Old Testament

- Malachi 4:4 – the last words of the Old Testament
 - Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

Stephen

Background

- Chosen as first deacon to serve the widows (Acts 6:1-6)
- Stephen is seized
 - And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. (Acts 6:8)
 - Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. (Acts 6:9)
 - But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. (Acts 6:10)
 - And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council (Acts 6:12)
 - And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. (Acts 6:15)

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Stephen's Speech

Outline

- Not a personal defense designed to secure his acquittal from the Sanhedrin
 - Rather an apologetic defense of the “new” gospel
- He showed that the disciples of Jesus were carrying on God's plan, whereas the unbelieving Jews had committed themselves to beliefs and behavior that God had left behind and disapproved
- Reviewed the history of Israel
 - Built mainly around Abraham, Joseph and Moses, and to a lesser degree David & Solomon
- Ends with an indictment of the Jewish leaders (Acts 7:51-53)

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What the NT Reaffirms about Moses

Acts 7:20-44 (Part of Stephen's speech)

- Moses received “world-class” training as a young man
 - And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds. (Acts 7:22)
- An angel communicated directly with Moses
 - ...an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush (Acts 7:30)
 - This is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. He received living oracles to give to us (Acts 7:38)
- Moses looked forward to Jesus
 - This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. (Acts 7:37)

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Transfiguration of Jesus

Presence of Moses (and Elijah)

- References: Matt 17:1-8; Mk 9:2-10; Lk 9:28-36; 2 Pe 1:16-18
- Sequence
 - Jesus goes up the mountain, accompanied by Peter, James & John
 - Jesus is transfigured
 - His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white
 - They are joined by Moses & Elijah, who converse with Jesus
 - Peter proposes to make three tents to honor Jesus, Moses & Elijah
 - God says “This is my Son in whom I am well pleased.”
 - Moses & Elijah disappear
 - Jesus and the three disciples go back down the mountain
 - Jesus instructs the disciples not to tell anyone what they saw until the Son of Man had risen from the dead

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Transfiguration of Jesus

Why Moses and Elijah – Theories (1 of 2)

- Represent the Law and the Prophets – Jesus representing the culmination of both
- In later Jewish thought, Moses served as an important eschatological figure (Dt 18:18)
- In later rabbinic thought, they are considered as the two primary prophets – first & last
- The two may have similar end-of-life experiences
 - Elijah – 2 Kings 2:9-12
 - Moses – Dt 34:5-6

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Transfiguration of Jesus

Why Moses and Elijah – Theories (2 of 2)

- Moses was the model for the eschatological Prophet whom God would raise up, specifically, Messiah (Dt 18:18)
- Elijah was the prophesied forerunner of Messiah (Mal. 4:5–6; cf. Matt. 3:1–3; 11:7–10; 17:9–13).
- Both prophets had their most intimate experiences with God on a mountaintop.
- Both prophets had unusual ends.
- Both Moses and Elijah played key roles in God’s plan for Israel.
 - Moses established the Mosaic covenant, under which Israel proceeded to live
 - Elijah led the people back to that covenant and God after their worst apostasy.
- Moses was the greatest figure associated with the Law, and Elijah was arguably the greatest of the Old Testament prophets—because of his role in turning Israel back to Yahweh from Baal worship.
- Jesus fulfilled all that was embodied in both the Law and the Prophets. The disciples would later learn that Jesus was greater than either of these great men (vv. 5, 8).

Tom Constable, Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible (Galaxie Software, 2003)

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Moses – the Man of Faith

Heb 11:23-29

- ²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.
- ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.
- ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.
- ²⁹ By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned.

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Quotations about Moses

What will others say about us?

- “Of all the great men whom God raised up in Israel, there is none whom the nation regarded with a more profound veneration than Moses.”
Saphir, Adolph. The Epistle to the Hebrews: An Exposition. 2 vols. New York: Loizeaux Brothers, 1946, 2:260
- “As with Abraham and Moses of old, the decisions we make today will determine the rewards tomorrow. More than this, our decisions should be motivated by the expectation of receiving rewards. ... The emphasis in the Epistle to the Hebrews is: ‘Don’t live for what the world will promise you today! Live for what God has promised you in the future! ...’”
Wiersbe, Warren W. The Bible Exposition Commentary. 2 vols. Wheaton: Scripture Press Publications, Victor Books, 1989, 2:279
- Moses had a true appreciation for the promises of God. This led him to choose the reward associated with Israel's promised Messiah (the “reproach of Christ”) over the temporary material wealth that he could have enjoyed had he stayed in Egypt. He was laying up treasure in heaven.
Robertson, Archibald Thomas. Word Pictures in the New Testament. 6 vols. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1931 5:426

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Our Response

After reviewing the life of Moses & other members of the Hall of Faith

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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Final Thoughts

Malachi's last words – again!

- “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. (Mal 4:4)
- Observations
 - “my servant” – how faithfully Moses had carried out God’s will
 - He (Moses) was to be their model of obedience
 - “the statutes and rules” – every revival in the Israelite history was a result of returning to the “Law of Moses”
- Application Questions – Are we:
 - Faithful
 - Obedient
 - Meek

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