

When Moses Wrote of Jesus

2. Genesis

*“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.” Genesis 49:10.
(ESV)*

Genesis 1:1: *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”*

John 1:1-3: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.”*

Hebrews 1:1-2: *“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.”*

Note: The very first verse in the Bible speaks of Jesus because Jesus took part in creation.

Genesis 1:14-15: *“And God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.' And it was so.”*

John 1:4: *“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

Note: The light that separated the darkness is ultimately Christ. Also: The fact that life comes from Jesus in this verse in John's gospel can be compared with the fact that God breathed life into Adam.¹ Both Greek and Hebrew have a word meaning either breath or spirit. True life comes from God, and access to God's Spirit is granted through Jesus.

¹ Genesis 2:7.

Genesis 2:2-3: *“And on the seventh day God finished His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all His work that He had done in creation.”*

Hebrews 4:9: *“So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from His.”*

Note: The author of Hebrews wrote this in the context of Jesus entering into God's presence on our behalf, and the recipients of the letter must continue to strive in order to enter this rest.

Genesis 2:21-24: *“So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman ... Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”*

Ephesians 5:29-32: *“ ... 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”*

Note: In Scripture, sleep and death are synonymous.² Just as Adam was put to sleep and through his sleep God formed Eve, God formed the church through the death (sleep) of Jesus, and Paul made it clear that this passage in Genesis is in reference to Christ and the church.

Genesis 3:15: *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”*

Galatians 4:4: *“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”*

1 John 3:8: *“Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning*

² This is consistent in the OT and NT. See such passages as Jeremiah 51:57 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”

Genesis 3:18 / 3:10: “ ... *thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you ...*” / “*And he said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.'*”

Matthew 27:28-29: “*And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head and put a reed in His right hand.*”

Note: These two consequences of sin in Genesis 3 – thorns out of the ground and the shame of nakedness – were experienced by Jesus during His crucifixion.

Genesis 3:21: “*And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.*”

Matthew 22:11-14: “*But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment? ... Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*”

Note: Genesis 3:21 demonstrates that sacrifice is necessary for covering up nakedness and sin. Adam and Eve had already made for themselves garments,³ but human-made garments cannot cover sin. Only God can make a garment adequate enough to cover us, and to do so requires the shedding of blood. Anyone without a clean garment – a wedding garment – will be cast away from God.

Genesis 3:22-24: “ ... *He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.*”

John 14:6: *Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'*”

John 17:3: “*And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ*

³ Genesis 3:7.

whom You have sent.”

Note: God barred the way to eternal life because of sin, but God grants access to it through the forgiveness of sins offered through Jesus. No work of man can overcome God's cherubim. Only God Himself can do it. Also: Compare the words of Jesus in John 17:3 with His words to those He rejects from entering eternal life: *“I never knew you.”*⁴

Genesis 4:1-8: “ *... In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell ...”*

John 1:29: *“The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'”*

Mark 15:9-10: *“And he answered them, saying, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered Him up.”*

Note: The story of Cain and Abel demonstrates: 1. A sacrifice pleasing to God is sheep and will ultimately be the Lamb of God; and 2. Abel's death alludes to Jesus. Abel was killed by his brother out of jealousy and envy, and Jesus was killed by His brothers out of jealousy and envy.

Genesis 6:1-8:19: “ *... And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you ...”*

1 Peter 3:20-22: *“ ... because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you ...”*

Mark 1:9-11: *“ ... And when He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove ...”*

4 Matthew 7:21-23.

Note: There are two immediate references to Jesus in the story of Noah: 1. Baptism, in which we experience death and resurrection just as Jesus did, Peter wrote is related to Noah and the ark. We are baptized (dead to the world through water) to be kept alive; and 2. After the flood waters subsided, Noah sent out a dove. So, after this “baptism” Noah went through, Noah sent out a dove, and after the baptism of Jesus, the Spirit descended on Him like a dove.

Genesis 8:20-9:17: “ ... *'Behold, I establish My covenant with you and your offspring after you ...'*”

Luke 22:20: “*And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.'*”

Note: With Noah, God established Himself as a God who makes covenants. These covenants all point to this ultimate covenant the people of God have with God through Christ.⁵

Genesis 11:1-9: “ ... *Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.*”

Acts 2:1-47: “ ... *And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.*”

John 12:32-33: “*'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.' He said this to show by what kind of death He was going to die.*”

Note: God confused the people and scattered them because of their own endeavors, but through Jesus all people are drawn back together. At Pentecost this was dramatically seen when Peter and the apostles drew people together who spoke various languages, rather than at Babel when people who spoke a common language were scattered.

Genesis 12:1-3: “ ... *'And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.'* ...”

Galatians 3:16: “*Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say,*

⁵ Hebrews 8:1-13.

'And to offsprings,' referring to many, but referring to on, 'And to your offspring,' who is Christ.”

Note: This passage in Genesis is the first reference to God's covenant with Abraham. Much can be made about this covenant, but for the sake of space much will not be written. Because God reaffirms this covenant multiple times, this will be the only reference to the covenant itself.

Paul's passage in Galatians is in reference to Genesis 17:7.

Genesis 14:17-20: “ *... And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him ... And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*”

Hebrews 6:13-7:28: “ *... For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him ... He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever ...*”

Note: Melchizedek was a living prophecy of Jesus, foreshadowing the eternal priesthood held by Jesus. Also: It is no coincidence that Melchizedek offered Abram bread and wine, which was later to be the Lord's Supper.⁶

Genesis 15:6 “*And he believed the LORD, and He counted it to him as righteousness.*”

Romans 4:1-25: “ *... It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*”

Note: The fact that people are justified in the eyes of God through faith in God is not something new. God did not lower the bar because no one could fulfill the Law. Only Jesus is righteous in deed. Humans are righteous through faith.

Genesis 15:7-21: “ *... When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces ...*”

⁶ It is my opinion that Melchizedek offered bread instead of unleavened bread because Melchizedek was a human who sinned. Only the sinless Jesus has the authority to offer unleavened bread.

Zechariah 12:6-13:1: “On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves ... And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on Me, on Him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over Him, as one weeps over a firstborn ...”

Matthew 27:32-54: “ ... they had crucified Him ... When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'"

John 5:18: “This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.”

Note: In the Genesis passage, we read that God had Abram cut in half various animals and line them up. This was typical of ancient civilizations for making covenants. The two people making the covenant would walk between the sacrificed carcasses. However, only the fire pot and the flaming torch passed between the animals, not Abram, which means that God made the covenant but took upon Himself the penalties for breaking it. This is further referenced in Zechariah where God used the same language of the “blazing pot” and the “flaming torch” and then revealed that Israel would look upon God “whom they have pierced,” which means that God intended to be the one who took on the penalties for the sins of the people. This was accomplished through Jesus, of the tribe of Judah, the Son of God,⁷ who was God and made Himself out to be God, when He was crucified (pierced) for the sins of the world. Jesus, who is both a human of the tribe of Judah and the Son of God who is God, flawlessly fulfills these two

⁷ Jews don't believe that the Messiah is God but a man appointed by God. However, this is one of the many prophecies which indicate that the Messiah *had* to be God in order to fulfill the prophecies, thus further proving the Messianism of Jesus.

Old Testament prophecies.

Genesis 16:1-16: *“Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female servant whose name was Hagar ... And Hagar bore Abram a son ...”*

Galatians 4:21-31: *“ ... Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar ... But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother ... we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.”*

Genesis 17:1-14: *“ ... 'This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised' ...”*

Colossians 2:8-15: *“In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead ...”*

Note: Circumcision had its purpose, and it ultimately pointed toward something much greater: The circumcision we receive through Christ, in which God made us alive with Him.

Genesis 18:1-22: *“And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him ...”*

Matthew 28:18-20: *“ ... 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'”*

2 Corinthians 13:14: *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”*

Isaiah 48:16: *“ '... And now the Lord GOD has sent me, and His Spirit.'”*

Note: Apart from God's previous references to “Us”⁸ this may be one of the clearer displays of the Trinity. Here three angels appeared to Abraham, yet we read that the LORD appeared to Abraham. The fact that the Trinity is three personalities in one can be seen in many passages, including the above Isaiah passage, which is Messianic and refers to Jesus (“me”) being sent by God and also His Spirit.

Genesis 22:1-19: “ ... *And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, 'The LORD will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'* ...”

John 8:28-29: “ ... *'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He ... And He who sent Me is with Me. He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.'*”

1 John 4:9-10: “*In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*”

Note: While God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, God did not require Abraham to follow through with it. Instead, God foreshadowed His greater plan for His Son to be sent and provided by God for a greater sacrifice.

Genesis 25:29-34:⁹ “ ... *Jacob said, 'Sell me your birthright now.' ... Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.*”

Malachi 1:2-3: “ ... *'Is not Esau Jacob's brother?' declares the LORD. 'Yet I have loved Jacob but Esau I have hated ...'*”

⁸ Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:17.

⁹ It may not be a direct reference to Jesus, but there is slight similarity between Abraham's servant finding a wife for Isaac, the heir of promise, with Abraham's people at the well in Genesis 24 and Jesus, the ultimate heir, speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4. Both women run and fetch others to bring back to the well, and both are lavished with gifts, though the Samaritan woman was clearly lavished with spiritual blessings far greater than jewelry.

Romans 9:1-13: “ ... *They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants ... the promises ... the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all ... But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring ... This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring ...*”

Note: The promise continued through the lineage of Jacob, but through Jacob came Christ and through faith in Christ are children of God, not the racial line of Israel.¹⁰

Genesis 28:10-22: “ ... *And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! ...*”

John 1:43-51: “ ... *And He said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.'*”

Note: The gate of heaven, the stairway/ladder to God, God's promise to Abraham and Isaac, God's stone and pillar, and God's very presence (“*Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.*”), all of which were together in Jacob's dream, come to pass in Jesus Christ.¹¹

Genesis 37:5-11: “ ... *'Hear this dream that I have dreamed: Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf' ... 'Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.'* ...”

Ephesians 1:15-23: “ ... *that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things under His feet ...*”

¹⁰ See this continue to play out in Genesis 27 when Isaac blesses Jacob with Esau's blessing.

¹¹ See Genesis 35:9-15; Psalm 18:2.

Matthew 28:18: “ ... *'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.'*”

1 Corinthians 15:23-28: “ ... *Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power ... When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to Him who put all things in subjection under Him, that God may be all in all.*”

Note: The similarities between Joseph and Jesus are numerous and maybe require their own section. Joseph's dreams about his brothers and parents bowing down to him were fulfilled in Egypt. However, they were ultimately fulfilled in Christ, both in the sense of fellow children of promise as well as the Father of Jesus. This is not to say that God the Father bows before Jesus, but Jesus and Paul made it clear that, for the time, God has given Jesus all authority. Jesus is King, just as Joseph will rise in power across all of Egypt.

Genesis 37:18-28: “ ... *They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits' ... And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.*”

Luke 22:3-6: “*Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot ... He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them ...*”

Note: There are a few points of interest here: 1. Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, just as Jesus was betrayed both by one of His disciples and His fellow Jews; 2. Joseph is thrown into a pit. The Hebrew word for pit here בֹּרַ (bôr) can also mean death.¹² Joseph was betrayed by his brothers and thrown into a pit and Jesus was betrayed by His brothers and put to death; and 3. Joseph is sold to Egypt. Later, the imagery of being enslaved in Egypt becomes synonymous with being enslaved to sin. Therefore Joseph sold to Egyptians is similar to Christ taking on sin.

¹² The word is pit in Psalm 28:1 and death in Proverbs 28:17.

Genesis 37:29-25: “ ... *Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood ... 'It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him.' ...*”

Matthew 27:27-31: “ ... *And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put His own clothes on Him and led Him away to crucify Him.*”

Note: While Joseph had the appearance of being torn to pieces, Jesus was torn to pieces with the whips and scourges used by the Roman officials before crucifying Him.

Genesis 41:38: “*And Pharaoh said to his servants, 'Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?'*”

Mark: 1:10: “*And when He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove.*”

Note: The Spirit of God was not only necessary for OT prophets, but ultimately for the Christ.

Genesis 41:53-42:8: “ ... *So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth ...*”

John 12:32-33: “*And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.' He said this to show by what kind of death He was going to die.*”

Note: It is in times of great distress and spiritual drought that people seek Jesus. Also: Joseph's brothers didn't recognize him, just as the Jews didn't recognize Jesus as the Christ.¹³

Genesis 45:7-8: “*And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was no you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.*”

John 3:16: “*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*”

¹³ John 8:34-47.

Acts 2:36: *“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”*

Note: Just as God sent Joseph into Egypt to be a ruler, God sent Jesus into our world to be Lord.

Also: In both the life of Joseph and Jesus, God is the one at work.

Genesis 47:1-3: *“ ... Pharaoh said to his brothers, 'What is your occupation?' And they said to Pharaoh, 'Your servants are shepherds, as our fathers were.'”*

John 10:1-21: *“ ... I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep ... I know My own and My own know Me ...”*

Note: The trade of shepherding being one of the trades of significant people/nations in the OT is no coincidence, but is ultimately revealing one of the true natures of the Christ: A shepherd.

Genesis 49:8-12: *“ ... The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples ...”*

2 Samuel 7:1-17: *“ ... 'When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish His kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever. I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son ...”*

Matthew 1:1-17: *“ ... Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers ... and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah ... and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ ...”*

Note: Although this blessing was for Judah, the Levites (who would be scattered) became the priesthood.¹⁴ If the NT were written by men, Jesus would be from Aaron, and yet Jesus the Christ fulfills both this blessing in Genesis and God's covenant with David.

¹⁴ See Israel's blessing on Levi and Simeon in Genesis 49:5-7 and Hebrews 7:11-14.