

Moses Lesson 12 Article

Moses was greater than any other of the prophets of the Old Testament. Though they were men of great interest in heaven and great influence upon earth, yet they were none of them to be compared with this great man; none of them either so evidenced or executed a commission from heaven as Moses did. This encomium of Moses seems to have been written long after his death, yet then there had not arisen any prophet *like unto Moses*, nor did there arise any such between that period and the *sealing up of the vision and prophecy*. by Moses God gave the law, and molded and formed the Jewish church; by the other prophets he only sent particular reproofs, directions, and predictions. The last of the prophets concludes with a charge *to remember the law of Moses*, Mal. 4:4. Christ himself often appealed to the writings of Moses, and vouched him for a witness, as one that *saw his day* at a distance *and spoke of him*. But, as far as the other prophets came short of him, our Lord Jesus went beyond him. His doctrine was more excellent, his miracles were more illustrious, and his communion with his Father was more intimate, for he *had lain in his bosom from eternity*, and by him God does now in these last days speak to us. Moses was faithful as a servant, but Christ as a Son. The history of Moses leaves him buried in the plains of Moab, and concludes with the period of his government; but the history of our Saviour leaves him sitting *at the right hand of the Majesty on high*, and we are assured that *of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end*. The apostle, in his epistle to the Hebrews, largely proves the pre-eminence of Christ above Moses, as a good reason why we that are Christians should be obedient, faithful, and constant, to that holy religion which we make profession of. God, by his grace, make us all so!¹

While the graves of many of history's great men are known and venerated, it is expressly stated of Moses "that no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day" (v. 6). Could the Lord have kept this a secret as a precaution against the development of a superstitious Mosaic cult that would have threatened the purity of Israel's faith and become a competitor to that central sanctuary about which Moses himself gave instructions?

While the physical details of Moses' death are withheld, the rabbis of Israel beautifully said that he died "by the kiss of God."

Truth for today.—The greatness of Moses is universally acknowledged. Yet when his task was ended, God raised up another to carry his mission to completion. The ongoing purposes of God depend on dedicated personalities who, though differing in mental and spiritual stature, are responsive to his will.

Moses' own anticipation of "a Prophet ..., like unto me" (Deut. 18:15) was realized in the coming of one whom the New Testament salutes as "counted worthy of more glory than Moses" (Heb. 3:3). His deliverance of God's people, the leadership he gave them, and the revelation of the divine mind and will that he transmitted at Sinai and after, are all eclipsed by the achievements of the Lord Jesus Christ. For as John the beloved disciple wrote, "The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).²

¹ Henry, M. (1994). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: Complete and unabridged in one volume* (289). Peabody: Hendrickson.

² Ackland, D. F. (1972). Deuteronomy. In H. F. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs (Eds.), *The teacher's Bible commentary* (H. F. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs, Ed.) (136). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.