

Articles and Sermons :: Moses is dead-- Let's keep it that way!

Moses is dead-- Let's keep it that way! - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2014/1/23 13:48

I thought I'd share:

Moses is dead-- let's keep it that way!

Before you gather stones, hear me out. I love our dear brother Moses. He has taught us a lot about the Lord. Without him, we would have never discovered Christ. He was one of the greatest prophets that have ever lived, and if there were ever a man that spoke on behalf of God, it was him.

But, with the coming of Christ, I think it is time we move on from some of the things Moses taught, as with the coming of Christ, some of the things he prescribed have simply become outdated. Take for example, animal sacrifices and temple rituals. These things are considered outdated, not because of any human philosophy, but because of the work of Christ on the cross. Because of what Jesus accomplished in His death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven, there are some things Moses prescribed that have faded away, and are no longer part of our faith.

Such is a very over simplistic summary statement, but as Christians we all get this... right?

If so, why is it that we continue to look to Moses and the leadership model he employed as being an example for us as a viable ministry model since the coming of Jesus Christ? If Jesus Christ brought an end to so much of what existed under the old covenant, why is it that we continue to use the "Moses on the mountain top" model of ministry for the church today?

Moses model of ministry was a pyramid, top-down, hierarchical approach to ministry. Moses heard from God. Most people did not. Therefore, if anybody wanted to know what God thought, they let Moses climb up a mountain, disappear for a number of days, then come back and tell everybody what God had to say. But, as the problems in Israel grew, and there were simply too many people for Moses to handle one-on-one. So he established some people in-between him and the people, and he would delegate the decision making and God-talking to others thing. The bigger Israel grew, the more mid-level managers were added, and the further Moses was removed from interacting with the people one-on-one. The only time Moses was consulted was for issues that were too big for anybody else in the pyramid to figure out on their own.

Such isn't by any stretch of the imagination, a bad system of government. In fact, it is quite good, and there is a lot of wisdom to it. However, there is a big problem with this form of government: Moses died, his government eventually collapsed, and it was never rebuilt.

And if you pay attention very carefully, upon the coming of Jesus Christ, Moses's ministry stayed dead. Jesus Christ did not resurrect the ministry of Moses. He let it lay in the dust. He brought with him not only new wine, but new wineskins, for the new work Jesus Christ was doing was incompatible with the work Moses did. As the book of Hebrews reminds us, Moses was great, but Jesus Christ is greater. So since we have Jesus Christ, while paying great respect to our brother Moses, let's allow Moses to stay dead. For Jesus Christ replaced Moses, and brought us new things in the process.

There is a lot of ministry being done these days that models a Moses style ministry. Superstar preacher figures climb up to the mountain, speak to us on behalf of God, then go back into hiding once they are done. If they are good enough at the entire hearing-from-God-and-speaking thing, and attract a large enough crowd, they do like Moses did, and delegate a number of leaders to stand between them and the people, and allow others to speak on their behalf.

Such preachers will seldom, if ever, talk to you after the church service is over. They vanish far too quickly for anybody to say anything. If they go to lunch with anybody after the service, they'll go to lunch with people closer to the top of the pyramid. Hanging out with the pastor in his home would be out of the question. If you get sick, somebody else will visit you. If you need somebody to counsel with, somebody else will do that. If you are lucky, when you die, the guy on top just might preach your funeral. But, chances are, he's probably too busy for that too. But no problem, the pastor's got a guy for that too.

In contrast, Jesus Christ established a new way of ministry. He preached to the masses, yet was always available to the

m. He gathered together a close group of people, taught them everything He knew, shared His meals and life with them, opened up and made Himself vulnerable (enough so that one of them had him killed because they didn't like what they saw!), and then taught those guys to do the same with other people.

While they were doing this, Jesus promised to be in the midst of each and every single one of them as they established their own outposts. This is something Moses could never do. Moses had to stack things the way he did, because he was unable to be everywhere all at once. He was finite. But Jesus Christ, on the other hand, can be in the midst of every group, all at once. He is infinite. He can be something Moses, nor us, can never be.

So, instead of creating our own little mini-Israelite nations, with us playing a Moses like leadership role, let us gather in community together with others centered around Jesus Christ. Moses is dead. His body is missing. Let's keep it that way! Let us not try to be Moses, and let us not try to take the place of Jesus Christ.

<http://kingjimmyunauthorized.blogspot.com/2014/01/moses-is-dead-lets-keep-it-that-way.html>

Re: Moses is dead-- Let's keep it that way!, on: 2014/1/23 14:11

The thing about having a Moses ministry is that you cannot preach the "whole counsel of God". You have to leave out certain things that Jesus and the Apostles spoke about or else you will not have your Moses' job anymore.

Here are a couple of scriptures that Moishe Ministers stay away from.

"And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth." Luke 22:24-27

And...

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of NO REPUTATION, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Php 2:4:8

And don't forget that the Moishe minister probably preaches more on the tithe than any other single subject. Over and over in various ways (creative sermons), he must forever hold it before the eyes of his sheep, that he needs constant funding.

Today's Moishe minister can be quite instructive to us as to what not to do and how not to treat people.

Re: , on: 2014/1/23 16:54

A needed correction here, brother. Moses is alive and well and so is Elijah. They met with Jesus on the Mt of Transfiguration. :-)

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2014/1/23 17:39

Quote:
-----While they were doing this, Jesus promised to be in the midst of each and every single one of them as they established their own outposts. This is something Moses could never do. Moses had to stack things the way he did, because he was unable to be everywhere all at once. He was finite. But Jesus Christ, on the other hand, can be in the midst of every group, all at once. He is infinite. He can be something Moses, nor us, can never be.

Excellent article, well written and something for the saints to consider especially those serving as a teaching Elder in an

assembly.

Re: Moses is dead-- Let's keep it that way! - posted by Sree (), on: 2014/1/24 0:13

I do not agree with this article. To a spiritually undiscerning mind this article might sound great but truth is it misses so many key points and also compares apples to oranges.

First and foremost, the ministry of Jesus is different from that of Moses.

* Jesus was filled with Holy Spirit and he listened to God from where he was, without any need to run to mountains. Moses needed to meet God personally to hear from him.

* Moses was also a Judge to Israel but Jesus did not come to Judge. When asked to Judge in Luke 12 he backed out. To be a judge in day today affairs of those men was a hectic task which Moses did by himself initially. He did not run away from meeting common people to be their judge as cited in this article. Moses was more than willing to do it, but took the advice of his father in law to appoint elders. So we cannot compare the workload of Moses to Jesus, they are fundamentally different.

* There is no scriptural proof that Moses was not available to common man, apart from the fact that he had to run to mountains everytime to hear God. But that was because of the limitation of his ministry or covenant, not because of his personal will. So we cannot compare Moses to modern day Church leaders who spend no time with common church goers.

* The main draw back of this article is this, it focuses on superficial problems with one man running the show at top of hierarchy. The superficial problem is he may not have time to meet with people of need and meets only with immediate hierarchy. But that is not the real problem. If you take the work of John Wesley and see the status of present day Methodist church, the problem was not with Wesley running busy. The problem was not Wesley not attending few funerals. If he had met the people and attended the funerals, do you think Methodist Church will be different from that of what it is now? Do you think it will not drift from that of Wesley's vision if Wesley had spent more time with them? The answer is big NO.

* So the real root cause for the fall of such Pyramid hierarchical Church is not with their leaders. The problem is the people who followed the leader never really connected to Jesus. The followers or next generation knew what the original leader preached but never connected to Jesus. Methodists highly regard John Wesley but do they connect with Jesus the same way as he did? This is exactly what Apostle Paul tried to achieve, he was in prison or away from the Churches that he established most of time. He did not even have time to visit them. But frequently wrote letters or sent messengers so that the Church will be connected to Jesus. It is not Paul or Apollos that is important but it is Jesus who causes the growth. He was determined to let the Churches know Jesus and in him crucified, nothing else.

* With the presence of Holy Spirit we do not need to have a ministry of Moses where only one man connects and listens from God and based on that directs a Congregation. Everyone can connect with God individually and on top of that we can have elders to Shepherd them and lead them to Chief Shepherd.

Re: - posted by ccchhhrrriiisss (), on: 2014/1/24 1:32

Very interesting, brother Jimmy! Thanks for sharing.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2014/1/24 7:11

Quote:

* With the presence of Holy Spirit we do not need to have a ministry of Moses where only one man connects and listens from God and based on that directs a Congregation. Everyone can connect with God individually and on top of that we can have elders to Shepherd them and lead them to Chief Shepherd.

That was really the entire point of the article. Such a ministry is not needed. So nobody should apply. We have Christ in our midst. We don't need another Moses. But so many want to play Moses instead of just getting out of the way and letting Christ meet with us.

Re: - posted by Sree (), on: 2014/1/24 9:58

Quote:
-----That was really the entire point of the article. Such a ministry is not needed. So nobody should apply. We have Christ in our midst. We don't need another Moses. But so many want to play Moses instead of just getting out of the way and letting Christ meet with us.

I agree with the point this article tries to prove. But the cause presented here is external thing instead of the root.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2014/1/24 12:34

Obviously when people are choosing external old covenant things over the new, there is something internal going on.