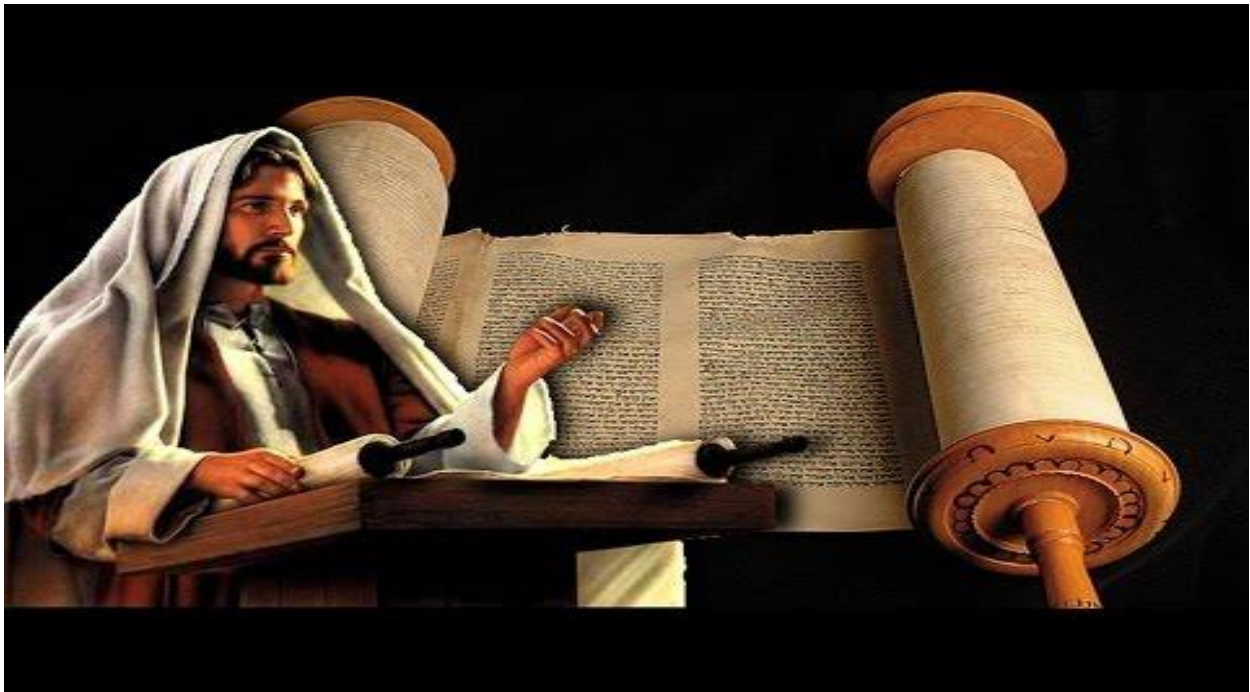


## Lesson 9

### Jesus as Old Testament Fulfillment

Jesus is the fulfillment of all of God's promises in the Old Testament. Hence, Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets (*the two major parts of Old Testament life*). The Old Testament paves the way for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, our Savior. As we have seen in the previous lesson, Jesus is the mediator of the new and eternal covenant and the sign of this covenant is the Eucharist. In other words, Jesus is the sign of the new covenant since the Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ. Hence, the Old Testament points us to Jesus in the Eucharist.

Saint Augustine said, "*The New Testament is hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is revealed in the New.*" One way that we can see the truth in this statement is by looking at some of the Old Testament characters who prefigure Jesus; in other words, these Old Testament figures who reveal aspects of Christ. Among these characters are: Adam, Isaac, Moses, the Passover Lamb, and Solomon.



Jesus is sometimes referred to as the "New Adam," especially by Saint Paul. The following charts highlight the similarities between the two so you can see how Adam foreshadows Jesus:

#### ADAM

Adam was the "son of God"

Adam was tempted by the devil  
and fell

#### JESUS

Jesus is the only begotten Son of God

Jesus was tempted by the devil  
but resisted

Adam disobeyed God

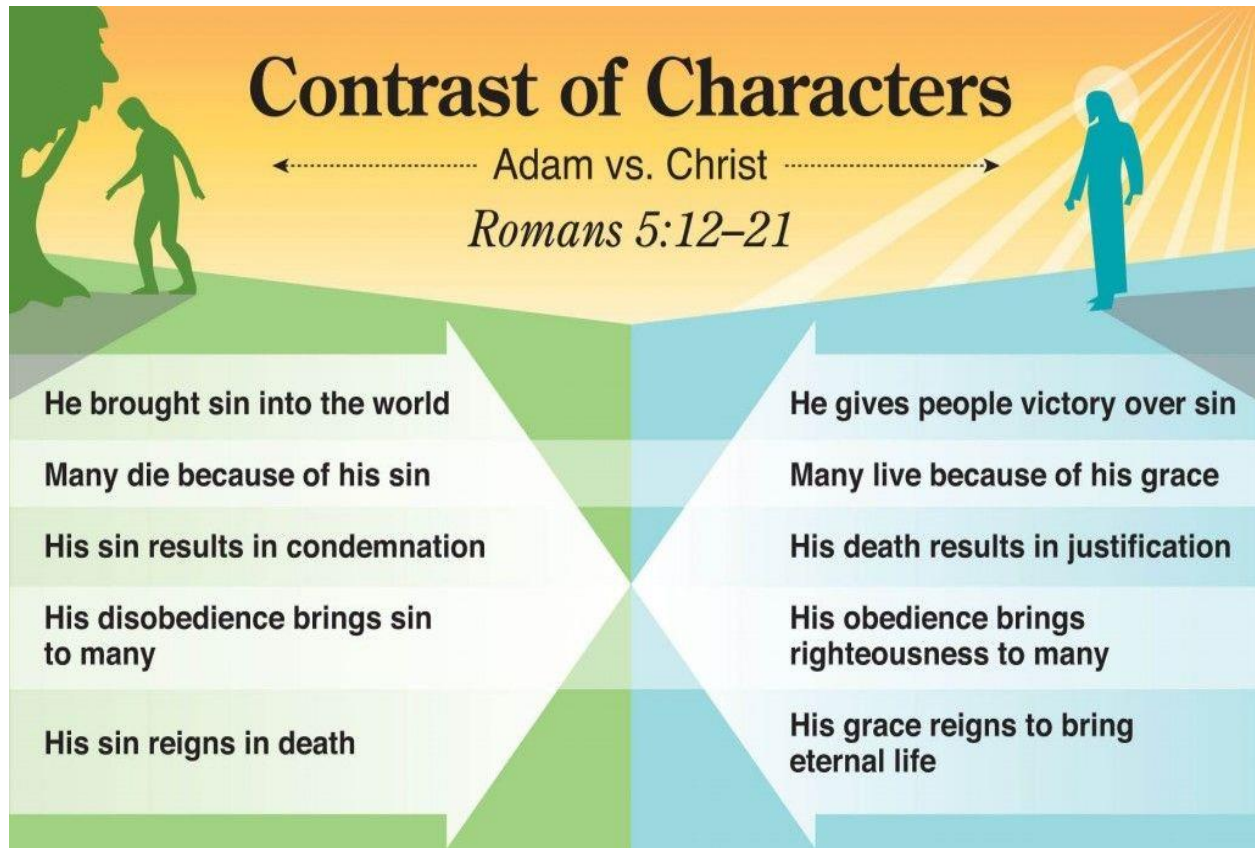
Adam brought sin and death  
to all humanity

Adam lost our place in paradise

Jesus perfectly obeyed even to death

Jesus saved all humanity from  
sin and death

Jesus restores our place in paradise



Abraham's son, Isaac, is another Old Testament character who reveals features of Christ in his life. The following chart illustrates the important similarities:

### ISAAC (Abraham's Son)

His father offers him to God

He submits to his father's will

Isaac carries the wood for his own sacrifice

God provides the sacrifice

### JESUS

The Father offers His Beloved Son

Jesus submits to his Father's will

Jesus carries his own wooden cross for his sacrifice

God provides the perfect sacrifice



Jesus is commonly referred to as the “New Moses.” Moses is known as the lawgiver because he gave the Ten Commandments (*God’s Law*) to the people. He is also famous for leading the Exodus. The Exodus is the journey of God’s people out of slavery in Egypt to the freedom of the Promised Land. Jesus as the New Moses gives us the Beatitudes (*God’s rules of love*). He also leads us on a New Exodus out of slavery to our sin into the Promised Land of Heaven. The following chart helps us to see the connection between Moses and Jesus:

## MOSES

Born in the reign of a ruthless Pharaoh

Escaped when Pharaoh ordered all the male Hebrew children killed

Exiled in Midian before his ministry

Passed through the waters of the Red Sea

Tested in the wilderness for 40 years

Fasted for 40 days and nights at Sinai

First Sign: changed water into blood

Brought the Law down from the mountain

Gave Israel manna in the wilderness

Led Israel out of bondage in Egypt

## JESUS

Born in the reign of the ruthless Herod

Escaped when Herod ordered all the male children in Bethlehem killed

Exiled in Egypt before his ministry

Passed through the waters of the Jordan in baptism

Tested in the wilderness for 40 days

Fasted for 40 days and nights in desert

First Sign: changed water into wine

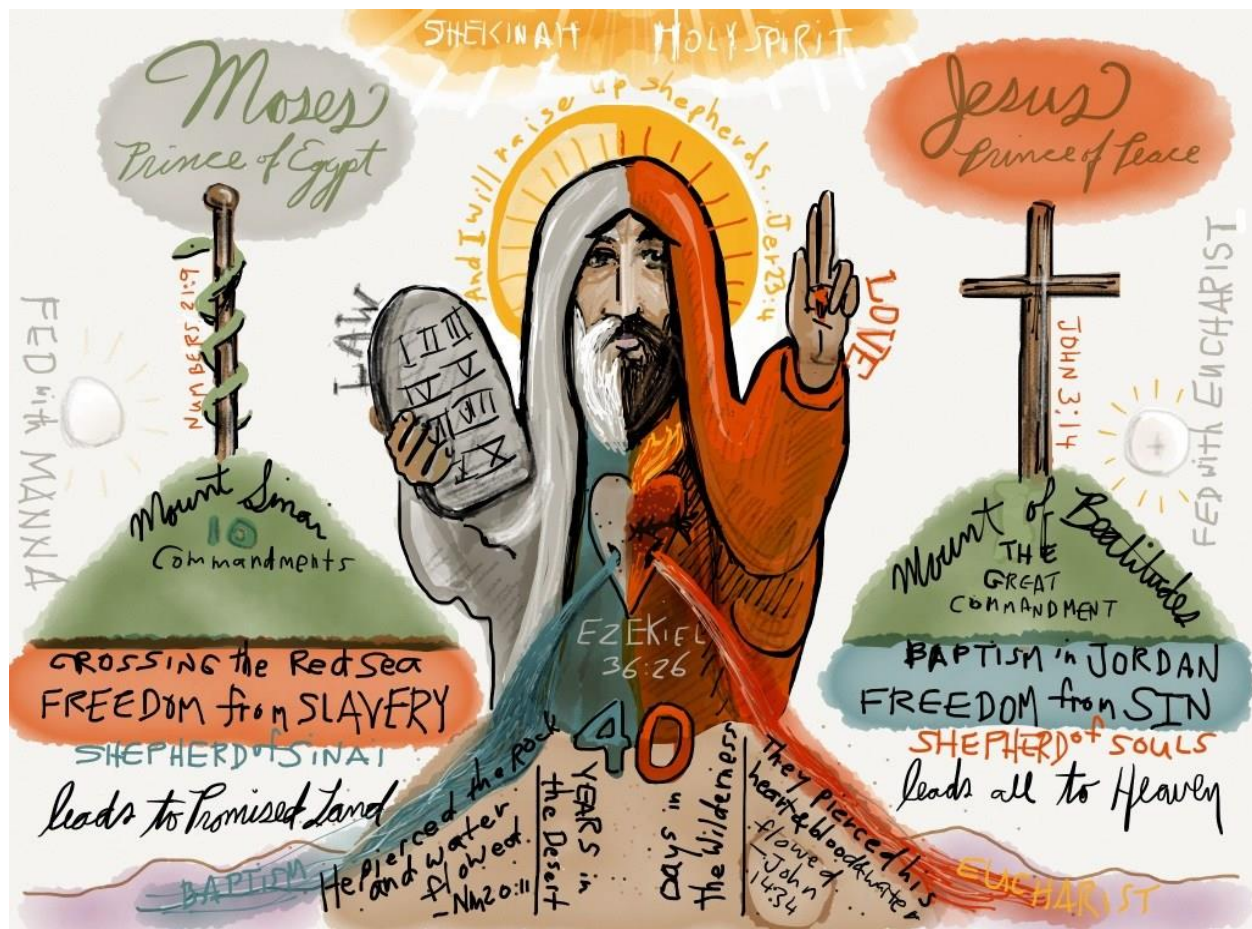
Taught the New Law on a mountain

Gave the people the true heavenly bread

Led all people out of the bondage of sin



The following picture puts Moses side-by-side with Christ in order to give us a nice visual display of some other important similarities between these two crucial figures of Salvation History.



The Passover Lamb is an important aspect of the Exodus event. It also is the most important concept with regards to the foreshadowing of Christ and the Eucharist. The following chart shows the significance of the Passover Lamb:

### PASSOVER LAMB

The lamb must be without blemish

The lamb was slaughtered by the priests beginning at the 6<sup>th</sup> hour on the day of Preparation

No bones of the lamb could be broken

A branch of hyssop was used for sprinkling the blood of the lamb

The high priest wore a holy linen tunic when making the sacrifice

### JESUS

Jesus was without sin

Jesus was handed over to be crucified at the 6<sup>th</sup> hour on the day of Preparation

Jesus' bones were not broken

The sponge of vinegar was given to Jesus on a branch of hyssop

Jesus, the high priest, wore a seamless linen tunic before his crucifixion



King David's son, Solomon, also points to Jesus, especially with regards to the concept of the "Son of David" and the Kingdom. The following chart displays some noteworthy similarities between the two individuals:

### **SOLOMON (*Son of David*)**

Descended from David

Anointed by Levite Priest

Ruler of an international empire

Paid homage by foreign princes

Builds the Temple

Promised an everlasting kingdom

### **JESUS (*Son of David*)**

Descended from David

Baptized by John, a Levite

Lord of all the nations

Paid homage by the Magi

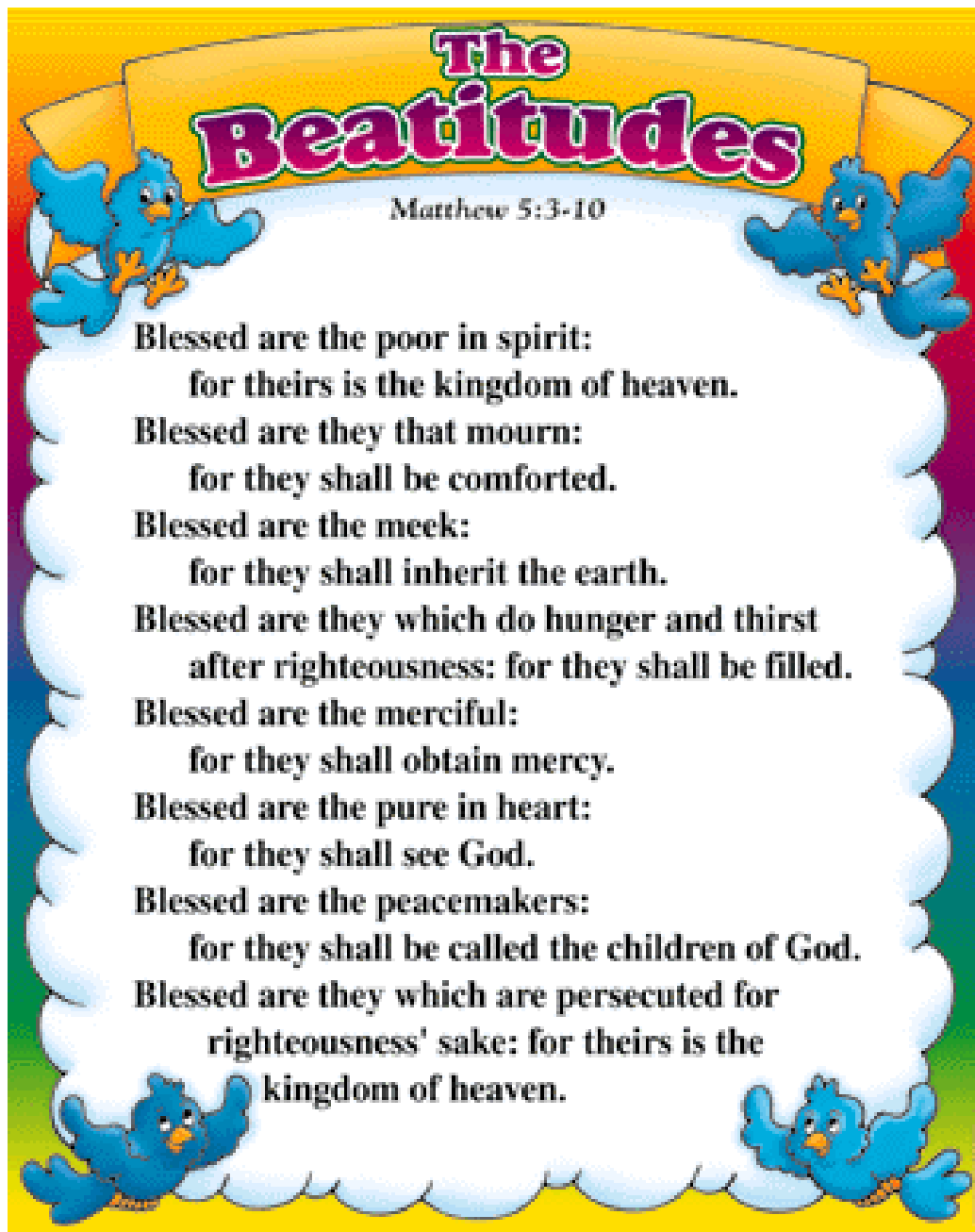
Rebuilds the Temple of his Body

Receives a truly everlasting kingdom

## **The Beatitudes**

Jesus' teachings are centered around the Beatitudes, especially in the Gospel of Matthew. The Beatitudes are a part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes are the attitudes of Jesus that produce the character of Christ. They are guidelines for Christ-like living that lead to happiness in this life and eternal joy in the next.

Jesus as the "New Moses" gives us the New Law which is summed up in the Beatitudes. Both the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes are directives on how to live life the way that God intended it. Like the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes place great value on human life, the purity of spirit, and on respectful, loving relationships. Both offer the wisdom to live a good life in relationship with God and others.



The Beatitudes are Jesus' answer to the question of happiness; an answer given in the form of a series of promises and challenges. Each Beatitude shows the believer a path leading to the happiness of God Himself. In its approach to the question of happiness, the Gospel insists from the outset that we face up to the inevitable trials of life: poverty, sadness, hunger and thirst. Every speaker reveals himself in his teaching; therefore, the Beatitudes reveal to us the spiritual face of Christ. In other words, the Beatitudes are a faithful portrait of Christ. The Beatitudes help us to reshape and conform ourselves to the image and likeness of Christ.

The following chart provides information to help you understand what Jesus means when he refers to each blessed groups of people. The "blessed" are those who meet the



challenge of living according to the values of Jesus. By understanding what Jesus is saying, we are better able to live the Beatitudes in our own lives.



## **The Greatest Commandment**

When asked the question, "Which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus answers by summing up all of law in two commands of love: to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This is known as "the Greatest Commandment" and we are called to live it out daily.

It is in Matthew's Gospel that Jesus not only gives us the greatest commandment, but he gives us a "40 Word Gospel" (See *the passage below*). In other words, within these 40 words, Jesus is presenting us with a mini-gospel and a mini-examination of conscience.

*"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39)*