

- **Jesus** is the true and better **Adam**, who passed the test in the garden and whose obedience is imputed to us (1 Corinthians 15).
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Abel**, who, though innocently slain, has blood that cries out for our acquittal, not our condemnation (Hebrews 12:24).
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Abraham**, who answered the call of God to leave the comfortable and familiar and go out into the void “not knowing whither he went” to create a new people of God.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Isaac**, who was not just offered up by his father on the mount but was truly sacrificed for us all.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Jacob**, who wrestled with God and took the blow of justice we deserved so that we, like Jacob, receive only the wounds of grace to wake us up and discipline us.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Joseph**, who at the right hand of the King forgives those who betrayed and sold him and uses his new power to save them.
- **Jesus** is the true and better **Moses**, who stands in the gap between the people and the Lord and who mediates a new covenant (Hebrews 3).

**[John] Robinson pointed out that  
‘the gospels ascribe to Jesus  
no consciousness of sin or guilt’,  
in striking contrast to that consciousness of sinfulness  
that has characterized the great Christian saints  
from Paul onwards  
(see, for example, Romans 7:21-24).**

**J.C. Polkinghorne**

**Recap from last week's lesson**

**In its time, the story of God's Presence during the Exodus was the Greatest Story Ever Heard.**

**But this was superceded by the Good News of the Gospel.**

**In the beginning Moses heard the voice of God in a burning bush that was not consumed.**

**Now, Moses and the people heard the voice of God in a burning mountain that was not consumed!**

**The people of Israel needed a mediator, or go-between (Moses), because they could not stand the Full Goodness of God.**

**Christ is our mediator, for being in very nature God, He gives us the ability to get close to God.**

## The Furnace

... the LORD took you and brought you out of the iron-smelting **furnace**, out of Egypt, to be the people of his inheritance...

Deuteronomy 4:20 (1 Kings 8:51, Jeremiah 11:4)

... “Look! I see four men walking around in the **fire**, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the **blazing furnace** and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” ... the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

Daniel 3

Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a **furnace**, and the whole mountain trembled violently. Exodus 19:18

## The Garden

We want life to be just so, to return to a version of the garden that appeals to our immediate interests. But God has closed and locked the gate to the garden, blocking the way...

But all is not lost.

God is cultivating a different kind of garden; and that garden is you and me – the relationship we have with God, the persons we are becoming, the life we live, the good we accomplish.

Surely Paul had something like that in mind when he described Christians as emitting the “aroma of Christ,” the fragrance of the garden (2 Corinthians 2:15). What he implies is that God is making us into his garden. He intends to use the beauty, aroma, and fruitfulness of our lives as a sign of and witness to his redemptive work in the world.

Jerry Sittser

God likened his people to a luxuriant grapevine, too!

## Prodigal Sons

**Compare Jacob,**  
who left home under the stigma of a being a double thief,  
taking from his brother,  
staying away for years  
and then returning home again,  
to the Prodigal Son.

**Similarities:** a brother who left home  
an older brother who felt cheated  
both headed home uncertain as to their welcome  
both prepared how they would greet their family

**Differences:** Jacob sought his fortune,  
while the Prodigal Son lost his inheritance  
Jacob was accepted by Esau,  
while the elder brother refused to greet the  
Prodigal Son

## Dying of Thirst

Now you know why God can come near undeserving sinners:  
because years later there was another little boy,  
born to a poor woman,  
who lived a life of rejection  
and at the end of his life was abandoned by his father.  
He also was dying of thirst,  
and he cried out and God did not answer.  
Do you know why God did not answer?

Though Hagar and Abraham and Sarah  
deserved abandonment and not blessing,  
on the cross Jesus Christ got the abandonment we deserve,  
so that we could get the blessing that he deserved.  
He cried out and nobody answered,  
so that when we cry out,  
even though we don't deserve to be answered,  
we will be answered.

Timothy Keller

## The King's Clothes

**Because Jesus  
was stripped naked on the cross (Matthew 27:28 and 35)  
we can be clothed  
in a robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10).**

**Timothy Keller**

**Whether Christ was completely or only partially naked,  
the humiliation of the crucifixion was complete.**



## David and the Philistines: Friends or Enemies?

**Consider the time that David marched with the Philistines and made as if he would attack Saul's armies of Israel (1 Samuel 29). The king, Achish had to send him back home (who would David have fought against?).**

**Consider also that there was a contingent of 600 Philistines (from Gath, 2 Samuel 15:18-22, 18:2) that fought with David; he trusted them to protect him.**

## Hagar

**Trible expounds ...‘This conception and birth make her an extraordinary figure in the story of faith: the first woman to hear an annunciation, the only one to receive a divine promise of descendants, and the first to weep for her dying child. Truly Hagar the Egyptian is the prototype of not only special but all mothers in Israel.’**

**Poor and insignificant though she was, she deserves to be given stature in biblical faith, for she “foreshadows Israel’s pilgrimage of faith through contrast” as she flees from suffering and bondage through the desert. The Israelites many generations later would likewise flee from their bondage into the desert. At closer look we can glean from her story several images of faith.**

**Judette A. Gallares**

**Also, Hagar “forsook” Ishmael for a while,  
like God temporarily “forsook” Christ on the cross**

## Two Woman in Elijah's Life

**Jezebel's hatred for Elijah was murderous,  
while the widow's hospitality and generosity were life-giving.**

**A rich queen would go down to her death fighting God,  
while a poor widow would come back to health and plenty  
because she believed in God.**

## Awesome Deeds

**Moses performed awesome deeds before Israel,  
Deuteronomy 34:10-12.**

**So also did Christ  
(John, the books would not hold... John 21:25)**

## Murder with the Sword of Another Nation

**Saul tried to kill David with the sword of the Philistines.**

**1 Samuel 19:17ff**

**David did kill Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites,**

**2 Samuel 12:9**

## Christ as the Second Adam or Second Moses

**Is Jesus' temptation  
the reliving of Adam and Eve's experience in Eden?  
(Jesus is then cast as the Second Adam,  
only this time perfectly obedient,  
and thereby the pioneer of a new Adamic line.)**

**Or, which is more probable,  
is Jesus' temptation by Satan  
the reliving of Israel's wilderness testings?  
(Jesus is then recast as the second Moses  
leading his people to a new Promised Land.)**

**Scot McKnight, from  
The Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How You Read the Bible**

## Contrast: Step-brothers and Their Attitudes

**Abimelek was Gideon's (Jerub-baal's) son by concubine.  
Gideon rescued the people of Israel from the Midianites,  
then he refused when the people wanted to make him king;  
when he died his son Abimelek killed all of his step-brothers  
(except for one who escaped),  
and put himself up as king;  
he did not follow in the ways of God.**

**Judges 8:29ff**

**Jephthah was Gilead's son by a prostitute.  
His step-brothers forced him to go away and live elsewhere.  
He went and gathered a group of "scoundrels" around him.  
When the Ammonites invaded,  
the step-brothers begged him to come and save them.  
He defeated the Ammonites  
(and the rebellious Ephraimites).  
He then led Israel for six years.**

**Judges 11-12**

## Comparisons: Moses and Paul [Charles Swindoll]

1. they were “in charge” at an early point in their lives
2. they suffered an abrupt change
3. they took flight (ran away)
4. they had to wait in obscurity
5. they returned in power (with help of someone God sent)
6. they attained a position of leadership
7. they each wrote a large part of the Bible
8. they stood at the threshold of a new kingdom  
(Moses before, Paul after)
9. there were admittedly weak in public speaking
10. they underwent organized training
11. they had to balance law vs grace
12. they each killed a man or authorized the killing of others
13. they had someone to speak for them (Aaron, Barnabas)
14. people were suspicious of them  
(Israelites complained, Christians wouldn't accept Paul)

R.C.H. Lenski writes, “Paul’s career began, like that of Moses, with flight and with a long period of waiting, waiting, nothing but waiting.”



## Comparisons: Hating (Refusing to Believe) the Truth

Then they will call to me but I will not answer;  
they will look for me but will not find me,  
since **they hated knowledge**  
and did not choose to fear the LORD.

Since they would not accept my advice  
and spurned my rebuke,  
they will eat the fruit of their ways  
and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

Proverbs 1:28-31

... They perish because they refused to love the truth  
and so be saved.

For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion  
so that they will believe the lie  
and so that all will be condemned  
who have not believed the truth  
but have delighted in wickedness.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-15

## Comparisons: Believing a Lie (Being Bullet-Proof)

You boast, “We have entered into a covenant with death,  
with the realm of the dead  
we have made an agreement.

When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by,  
it cannot touch us,  
for we have made a **lie** our refuge  
and **falsehood** our hiding place.”

Isaiah 28:15

The people did not believe that they needed Godç

## Comparisons: Believing a Lie (Being Bullet-Proof)

So this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone,  
a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;  
the one who relies on it  
will never be stricken with panic.

I will make justice the measuring line  
and righteousness the plumb line;  
hail will sweep away your refuge, the **lie**,  
and water will overflow your hiding place.

Your covenant with death will be annulled;  
your agreement with the realm of the dead will not stand.

When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by,  
you will be beaten down by it.

Isaiah 28:15-18

Only God has the power to make a lasting covenant with us!

## Comparisons: Bowing Down to a Brother

Joseph dreamed that his brothers (and mother and father)  
would bow down to him.

[And they did!]

Genesis 37:5ff

Joseph later, though,  
having known this dream and its fulfillment,  
in his blessing  
stated that the brothers  
would bow down to Judah.

Genesis 49:8

Joseph passed his “mantle” on to Judah,  
Somewhat like John the Baptist did for Jesus

## Comparisons: Enduring suffering to save their people

### Moses:

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

Hebrews 11:24-25

When the Israelites made the golden calf to worship, God told Moses He would destroy the people and make Moses the father of a new nation. But Moses pled for the people and God relented.

Exodus 32:9ff

### Paul:

For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh...

Romans 9:3

### Christ:

That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

Acts 26:23