

DISCIPLES OF MOSES?

(PART 1)

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In John 9:1-7, Jesus Christ gave sight to a man who had been blind from his birth. The Lord performed this miracle on the Sabbath (John 9:14). The man told his neighbors his healing and that he could now see (John 9:8-12). Then the man was then brought before the Pharisees (John 9:13). The Pharisees asked how he gained his sight, and the man told them how Jesus did the miracle (John 9:15). They did not believe his report until his parents confirmed to them that he was indeed their son and he had indeed been born blind (John 9:18-20). When they asked the man a second time how he had received his sight, he said to the Pharisees, "I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples? Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; *but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spake unto Moses:* as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is" (John 9:27-29). The Pharisees *claimed* to be disciples of Moses, and even gave the reason why. But was their claim accurate?

How we know God spoke to Moses

The Pharisees claimed to be disciples of Moses and they gave as their reason for being his disciples their claim to believe that God spoke to Moses (John 9:28 29). They said they *knew* God spoke to Moses. But these claims were hypocritical and false. First of all, the only way to know that God spoke to Moses was the fact that God bore witness to Moses by miracles. In Exodus 4:1-9, Moses said to the Lord, "But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee. And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. And the Lord said unto Moses, Put

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forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: *that they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee.* And the Lord said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, *that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.* And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land.” Exodus 4:28-31 says, “And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel: *and Aaron spake all the words which the Lord had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed:* and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.” After the Lord used Moses to bring the ten plagues upon the Egyptians, and then parted the Red Sea to save Israel and destroy the Egyptians, “Israel saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians: *and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses*” (Exod 14:31). But the Pharisees did not really believe God’s witness to Moses.