

## FL109 Why Moses Stuttered

Moses stuttered so badly [or was tongue-tied] that his own people couldn't understand him. So why did God choose him to speak for Israel? Moses was a figure of Christ. His stuttering represented what the Jews heard when Jesus spoke with parables.

### Moses and Christ's Speech

Moses went into Egypt to deliver Israel from slavery; Jesus entered the world to save sinners from sin. But the Israelites could not understand Moses' speech. This is a parable to show that the Jews would not understand Christ's parables.

When God told Moses to deliver the children of Israel, Moses argued that his speech defect disqualified him; "... I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue" [Ex 4:10]. Moses' speech defect shows the difficulty that both Jews and Gentiles would have in understanding Christ's words.

Christ was hard to understand; but not because He didn't speak plainly. He didn't have a speech impediment; parables are difficult to understand. This was especially true when the listeners think they are hearing plain speech. And this is always true when the listeners don't know what the symbols in His parables mean.

For example, after Jesus said that He had to leave and return [Joh 14:3] His disciples questioned what He meant: "They said therefore, What is this that he saith, A little while? we cannot tell what he saith" [Joh 16:18]. Now, Jesus didn't stutter, and He certainly wasn't tongue-tied — the apostles heard Him clearly. They just didn't know what His words meant.

If the apostles couldn't understand Him, how can we? They walked and talked with Him; they spoke His language. They were familiar with Jewish traditions, many of which came from the writings of Moses. We have none of these advantages.

Yet, the Spirit speaks to us even as He spoke to David and other men of God. And David also spoke of Christ's manner of speech: "I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old" [Psa. 78:2]. Thus, David agreed with Moses, and Christ's parables prove that both men heard correctly.

But, why did Jesus use parables? Why didn't He use plain speech and say what He wanted us to know?

Christ's disciples asked this same question: "*And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it*

*is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given ... Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand"* [Mt 13:10-13]. Thus, Jesus taught with parables to hide truth from those who don't want to hear truth.

This not only explains why Moses stuttered, but it also explains why he was the right man for the job. God ordained his speech impediment so his words would prefigure Christ's parables. Parables ensure that those who don't want to hear, cannot hear.

### Two Interpreters

Moses spoke with a slow tongue; Jesus spoke with hard to understand parables. However, what both men said is far more important than the sounds of their voices. To learn the meanings of what they said, we must interpret Moses' writings and Christ's parables. To do this, we need to know about two interpreters who explained their words.

Having grown up with Moses, his brother Aaron understood him better than most. So, God sent Aaron to interpret what Moses said: "And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well..." [Ex. 4:14]. (There's more to this doctrine, but their family bloodline is not within the scope of this lesson.)

God sent Aaron to interpret Moses' speech; God sent the Holy Spirit to interpret Christ's speech. As Aaron was with Moses, the Holy Spirit was with Jesus: "*And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone...*" [Joh. 8:29].

Respectively, Aaron and Moses represent the Holy Spirit and Christ's physical body. Thus, Christ came as a double man — the son of God within the Son of man — the Father within the Son [1Ti. 3:16]. The Son spoke the parables; the Spirit gave their meanings. The Son spoke as Moses; the Father spoke as Aaron.

So then, Moses stuttered to show that Christ would speak with parables; Aaron interpreted to show that the Holy Spirit [the NT High Priest] would interpret.

Yet, there's a major difference between these two. Moses spoke and Aaron interpreted in OT times; Jesus spoke, and the Holy Spirit interpreted in NT times "... *when they (the disciples) were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples*" [Mk 4:34].

Now that you see Moses speaking as Christ and the Father speaking in Christ, you can use this understanding as a tool to help with the interpretations of Christ's parables.

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When Jesus spoke as Moses, He used parables. When Jesus spoke as Aaron, He interpreted those parables.

Thus, Moses' speech represents Christ's parables and Aaron's speech represents Christ's interpretations..

When reading Christ's words, therefore, you must determine when He spoke as Moses and when He spoke as Aaron. That is, some of His words are figurative and some of

His words are plain speech. So, you must determine His manner of speech before you can know what He means.

So whether studying Moses' writings or Christ's teachings, you must determine which texts are figurative and which texts are plain speech. If you fail to interpret "figurative texts" you fall into error, and if you interpret "plain speech texts" you also fall into error. For more instruction on this subject, read FL101.