



Lesson 47 – The Death of Moses

based on Deuteronomy 31 to 34.

Moses' ministry on this earth was coming quickly to its close. God had bestowed great blessings upon Israel. His loving-kindness toward them is touchingly portrayed:

- 1) What was God's watch care likened unto?
Deuteronomy 32:11-12 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her _____, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.
- 2) How long will God's Law last?
Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one _____ or one tittle shall in no wise _____ from the law, till all be fulfilled.
- 3) What else did Jesus declare?
Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the _____ of my Father which is in heaven.

In all the Bible, God is represented not only as a tender father but as a righteous judge.

- 4) What did God declare to Moses?
Exodus 34:6-7 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means _____ the guilty...

The great Ruler of nations had declared that Moses was not to lead the congregation of Israel into the goodly land, and the earnest pleading of God's servant could not secure a reversing of His sentence. He knew that he must die. Yet he had not for a moment faltered in his care for Israel. He had faithfully sought to prepare the congregation to enter upon the promised inheritance.

- 5) What did Moses charge Joshua with as the mantle of leadership transferred?
Deuteronomy 31:23 And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good _____: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swear unto them: and I will be with thee.
- 6) What did he charge the elders with?
Deuteronomy 31:28-29 Gather unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to _____ against them. For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and _____ will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands.

As the people gazed upon the aged man, so soon to be taken from them, they recalled, with a new and deeper appreciation, his parental tenderness, his wise counsels, and his untiring labors. How often, when their sins had invited the just judgments of God, the prayers of Moses had prevailed with Him to spare them! Their grief was heightened by remorse. They bitterly remembered that their own perversity had provoked Moses to the sin for which he must die.

- 7) What did God tell Moses that very day?
Deuteronomy 32:49 Get thee up into this mountain Abarim, unto mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, that is over against Jericho; and _____ the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel for a possession:



Deuteronomy 32:50 And _____ in the mount whither thou goest up, and be gathered unto thy people; as Aaron thy brother died in mount Hor, and was gathered unto his people:

Moses had often left the camp, in obedience to the divine summons, to commune with God; but he was now to depart on a new and mysterious errand. He must go forth to resign his life into the hands of his Creator. Moses knew that he was to die alone; no earthly friend would be permitted to minister to him in his last hours. There was a mystery and awfulness about the scene before him, from which his heart shrank.

8) What were Moses' final words before climbing the mountain alone?

Deuteronomy 33:26-27 There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his excellency on the sky. The eternal God is thy _____, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the _____ from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

Deuteronomy 33:28-29 Israel then shall dwell in safety alone: the fountain of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine; also his heavens shall drop down dew. _____ art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people _____ by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

Moses turned from the congregation, and in silence and alone made his way up the mountainside. He went to ***“the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah.”*** Upon that lonely height he stood, and gazed with undimmed eye upon the scene spread out before him.

9) How does the Bible record what he saw?

Deuteronomy 34:1-3 And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the LORD _____ him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan, And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea, And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto _____.

Deuteronomy 34:4 And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I swear unto _____, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.

In solitude Moses reviewed his life of vicissitudes and hardships since he turned from courtly honors and from a prospective kingdom in Egypt, to cast in his lot with God's chosen people. He called to mind those long years in the desert with the flocks of Jethro, the appearance of the Angel in the burning bush, and his own call to deliver Israel. Again, he beheld the mighty miracles of God's power displayed in behalf of the chosen people, and His long-suffering mercy during the years of their wandering and rebellion.

He did not regret the burdens he had borne. He knew that his mission and work were of God's own appointing. When first called to become the leader of Israel from bondage, he shrank from the responsibility; but since he had taken up the work, he had not cast aside the burden. Even when the Lord had proposed to release him, and destroy rebellious Israel, Moses could not consent. Though his trials had been great, he had enjoyed special tokens of God's favor.

Moses saw in vision the chosen people established in Canaan, each of the tribes in its own possession. He had a view of their history after the settlement of the Promised Land; the long, sad story of their apostasy and its punishment was spread out before him. He saw them, because of their sins, dispersed among the heathen, the glory departed from Israel, her beautiful city in ruins,



and her people captives in strange lands. He saw them restored to the land of their fathers, and at last brought under the dominion of Rome.

He was permitted to look down the stream of time and behold the first advent of our Saviour. He saw Jesus as a babe in Bethlehem. He heard the voices of the angelic host break forth in the glad song of praise to God and peace on earth.

10) What prophecy was brought back to his mind?

Numbers 24:17 ... there shall come a _____ out of Jacob...

He beheld in the heavens the star guiding the Wise Men of the East to Jesus.

He beheld Christ's humble life in Nazareth, His ministry of love and sympathy and healing, His rejection by a proud, unbelieving nation.

11) What vision stirred Moses heart?

Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou _____ me?

He looked again, and beheld Him coming forth a conqueror, and ascending to heaven escorted by adoring angels and leading a multitude of captives. He saw the shining gates open to receive Him, and the host of heaven with songs of triumph welcoming their Commander. And it was there revealed to him that he himself would be one who should attend the Saviour, and open to Him the everlasting gates. As he looked upon the scene, his countenance shone with a holy radiance.

Moses beheld the disciples of Jesus as they went forth to carry His gospel to the world. He saw that though the people of Israel "**according to the flesh**" had failed of the high destiny to which God had called them, in their unbelief had failed to become the light of the world, though they had despised God's mercy and forfeited their blessings as His chosen people, yet God had not cast off the seed of Abraham; the glorious purposes which He had undertaken to accomplish through Israel were to be fulfilled.

Still another scene opens to his view, the earth freed from the curse, lovelier than the fair Land of Promise so lately spread out before him. There is no sin, and death cannot enter. There the nations of the saved find their eternal home. With joy unutterable, Moses looks upon the scene, the fulfillment of a more glorious deliverance than his brightest hopes have ever pictured. Their earthly wanderings forever past, the Israel of God have at last entered the goodly land.

12) What happened next?

Deuteronomy 34:5-6 So Moses the servant of the LORD _____ there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And he _____ him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.

Many who had been unwilling to heed the counsels of Moses while he was with them would have been in danger of committing idolatry over his dead body had they known the place of his burial. For this reason, it was concealed from men. But angels of God buried the body of His faithful servant and watched over the lonely grave.

13) What amazing information had God withheld from Moses?

Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord _____ thee.



Matthew 17:1-3 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them _____ and _____ talking with him.

For the first time Christ was about to give life to the dead. As the Prince of life and the shining ones approached the grave, Satan was alarmed for his supremacy. With his evil angels he stood to dispute an invasion of the territory that he claimed as his own. He boasted that the servant of God had become his prisoner. He declared that even Moses was not able to keep the law of God; that he had taken to himself the glory due to Jehovah, the very sin which had caused Satan's banishment from heaven, and by transgression had come under the dominion of Satan. The archtraitor reiterated the original charges that he had made against the divine government and repeated his complaints of God's injustice toward him.

14) What was Jesus' reply to Satan?

Jude 1:9 The Lord _____ thee.

The Saviour entered into no dispute with His adversary, but He then and there began His work of breaking the power of the fallen foe and bringing the dead to life. Here was an evidence that Satan could not controvert, of the supremacy of the Son of God. The resurrection was forever made certain. Satan was despoiled of his prey; the righteous dead would live again.

He did not forget or forsake His servant. The God of heaven understood the suffering that Moses had endured; He had noted every act of faithful service through those long years of conflict and trial. On the top of Pisgah, God called Moses to an inheritance infinitely more glorious than the earthly Canaan.

15) What was Moses a Type for?

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a _____ from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

16) What did Jesus' life here provide for us?

Hebrews 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the _____ of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Hebrews 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to _____ them that are tempted.

17) What did Paul record about Moses?

Hebrews 3:5-6 And Moses verily was _____ in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the _____ and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Can you see what a godly man can do?

Would you like for those around you to prosper?

When is it time to humbly seek God's will?