

Deuteronomy 34 - The Death of Moses

III. Third sermon: What God will do for Israel (Deut 27:1—34:12)

(3) Transition toward New Covenant leadership (Deut 31:1—34:12)

(C) Moses' death (Deut 32:48—34:12)

(c) Moses views Canaan from a distance (34:1-4)

(d) Moses' death (34:5-8)

(e) Joshua replaces Moses (34:9)

(f) Moses' uniqueness (34:10-12)

Deuteronomy 34

(c) Moses views Canaan from a distance (34:1-4)

1 Now Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan,

1 Now Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan,

1 Moses ascended from the desert plain of Moab toward Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the entire land, from Gilgal as far as Dan,

1 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 shewed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan,

2 and all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea,

2 and all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea,

2 all of Naphtali, the territories of Ephraim and Manasseh, and the entire territory of Judah all the way to out over the sea,

2 And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea,

3 and the Negev and the territory in the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

3 and the Negev and the plain in the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

3 including the Negev, the Arabah, the valley of Jericho, and the city of the palm trees as far as Zoar.

3 And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar.

- Altitude: 2740ft, 12 mi. E of Dead Sea, 1292ft below sea level

(Looking north, beyond the Sea of Galilee: snow-capped peak of Mt. Hermon, 120 mi. N, 9232ft. above sea level

- The question arises whether Moses wrote of his own death. He could have. The Lord had told him he would die

— He had 70 assistants and also scribes, who probably finished these verses

— Also, a great many believe that this is actually the beginning of the Book of Joshua

4 Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see *it* with your eyes, but you will not go over there."

4 Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see *it* with your eyes, but you shall not go over there."

4 Then the LORD told him: "This is the land that I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob by an oath when I said, 'I'll give it to your descendants.' I'll let you see it with your eyes, but you won't cross over there."

4 And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I sware unto Abraham, 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.

- While in both Egypt and the wilderness, Israel was not a righteous nation, yet God rescued them and brought them into the land based on the Abrahamic Covenant, despite their tendency to rebel and murmur (Cf. Ex 2:23-25; 6:2-8; 1 Chr 16:15-19; 2 Chr 20:7-8; Neh 9:7-8; Ps 105:7-12)

- God's last words to Moses made clear that God brought Israel to the Promised Land based on His covenant with Abraham

(d) Moses' death (34:5-8)

5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, in accordance with the word of the LORD.

5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

5 So Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, just as the LORD had said.

5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

6 And He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows his burial place to this day.

6 And He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but no man knows his burial place to this day.

6 He was buried in the valley opposite Beth Peor, in the land of Moab, but no one knows to this day where his burial place is.

6 And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.

7 Although Moses was 120 years old when he died, his eyesight was not dim, nor *had* his vigor left *him*.

7 Although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated.

7 Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eyesight wasn't impaired and he was still vigorous and strong.

7 And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

8 So the sons of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days; then the days of weeping *and* mourning for Moses came to an end.

8 So the sons of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the days of weeping *and* mourning for Moses came to an end.

8 The Israelis mourned for Moses at the desert plain of Moab for 30 days, after which the period of mourning for Moses was completed.

8 And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

(e) Joshua replaces Moses (34:9)

9 Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

9 Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

9 Now Nun's son Joshua was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had placed his hands on him, so Israelis listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses.

9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses.

(f) Moses' uniqueness (34:10-12)

10 Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

10 Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

10 No prophet ever rose again in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew with such great intimacy.

10 And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

11 for all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land—

11 for all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land,

11 What signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do throughout the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh, and to all of his servants who lived in the whole land!

11 In all the signs and the wonders, which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land,

12 and for all the mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

12 and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

12 What great power and great terror Moses displayed on behalf of all Israel!

12 And in all that mighty hand, and in all the great terror which Moses shewed in the sight of all Israel.

- Moses introduced a new era into the history of God's people, the Age of the Law

- The Israelites waited for God to raise up the Prophet like Moses (18:15)

— they were looking for him among the three conjectures in John 1:20-21

Thus the book (and the Torah) ends on a prophetic note looking forward to the day when "another Moses" would be given to Israel. That day finally arrived when the Lord Jesus

Christ came as a Servant but also as the very Son of God, surpassing even Moses (Cf. Heb. 3:1-6). He offered to take Israel into a new era, the Age of His Grace. The Israelites culminated centuries of rebellion by rejecting that gracious offer. However, the Song of Moses still points forward to the day when that offer will be accepted and God will heal and avenge His people (Deut 32:36,43).