

DEUTERONOMY 33-34

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Deuteronomy chapter 33 as we continue our study through the Word of God and tonight, we will finish the book of Deuteronomy.

I like what J. A. Tompson wrote regarding the book of Deuteronomy because today, many don't see the importance of this book.

Here is what he wrote,

Deuteronomy is one of the greatest books of the Old Testament. Its influence on the domestic and personal religion of all ages has not been surpassed by any other book in the Bible.

It is quoted over eighty times in the New Testament and thus it belongs to a small group of four Old Testament books [Genesis, Deuteronomy, Psalms, and Isaiah] to which the early Christians made frequent reference.

- J. A. Tompson

As we open up tonight, we are going to see the last public address of Moses to the children of Israel before he dies and he is going to give a blessing to each tribe or really a prophecy of what will transpire in each of these tribes, which is not always a blessing.

For Moses, you might say that this is the end of the road for him and with these words he is giving his goodbyes to the twelve tribes of Israel, the ones that he has been with, loved and guided these forty years!

Remember what Moses wrote in Psalm 90:12, "**So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.**"

For Moses, he is now numbering his hours, no longer days. He is getting ready to climb Mount Nebo and surrender his life into the hands of the God he loved so much.

And in that we need to be reminded that our days are numbered and may we use them to the fullest for the Lord. And like Moses, may we leave blessings behind for people to learn and grow in their relationship with the Lord!

With that said, let's begin reading in Deuteronomy chapter 33, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

DEUTERONOMY 33

VERSE 1

Back in Genesis chapter 49 we saw Jacob or Israel give his blessings to his children before his death.

And now Moses is doing the same, not to his children but to the descendants of the 12 sons of Israel or Jacob and we know them as the 12 tribes of Israel.

Moses was a shepherd for God's people these past forty years and he could not just walk away from them without blessing them!

It was not an easy forty years, and we see at times the frustration that Moses had with them, but he did love them and now he will bless them before he departs from this life.

What I like here is what we read of this man. We are told of him, "**Moses the man of God.**"

That is how I want to be thought of. "*Joe, the man of God!*"

Don't you feel the same way?

I want my love for God to be so deep that it is reflected in my actions, the things that I say, that people would see me as a man of God! And my prayer is that I would finish the race that God has set before me and not only finish it, but finish it strong in the Lord, as Paul did.

Remember what Paul said in II Timothy 4:6-7 as he sat in the Mamertine prison in Rome awaiting to be put to death for his faith, **“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”**

That is how we want to finish our race of faith, strong in the Lord. Help us Lord to do that, to finish strong because the race is hard and it is long but with the Lord’s help, we too can finish strong!

VERSES 2-5

Before he gives them these blessings, he reminds them of God and how He met with them on Mount Sinai and gave to them the Law.

And something we didn’t get in Exodus is that a multitude of saints or angels were around Him when He gave the Law! That had to leave an impression on their minds even if they were young!

When Moses received the Law, God and with Him were more than 10,000 angelic beings! Can you imagine what that looked like!

And why did God do this?

Look at what it says in Deuteronomy 33:3, **“Yes, He loves the people.”**

That is what we see over and over again, God's love for His people, not because they were so special, but God has chosen them to be His people and through them the Messiah, the Savior of the world would come forth!

The same is true for us and we must remember that God's sovereign grace and love are never reasons for pride on the part of sinful people.

Rather, they are truths that should humble us and make us want to serve Him with all our hearts.

And we see that "**He was King in Jeshurun**" and the point here is that this is a poetical name for the people of Israel, *Jeshurun*. It was spoken of as a term of affection, meaning, "*the dear upright people*" or Jeshurun "*the upright one.*"

That is how God saw them, even though that is not what they were always like.

I believe that is how God sees us, perfect not practically or every day but positionally as the blood of Christ has cleansed us from all of our sins!

Now Moses will give the blessings to the twelve tribes of Israel!

VERSE 6

The first blessing goes to Ruben, and it speaks of the growth of the tribe and yet there was never a prophet, judge or King that came from the tribe of Ruben.

This seems to coincide with what Jacob said back in Genesis 49:3-4, that they would not excel.

Also, this is one of the 2½ tribes that did not go into the Promise Land but remained on the east side of the Jordan River, in the upper northeast section of the Dead Sea region.

VERSE 7

Judah means, *“praise”* and that is interesting because Moses prayed that the Lord would hear the voice of Judah or that He would hear their praise!

There also may be a hint of the coming Messiah from the tribe of Judah as we see Jacob clearly speak of the coming Messiah from Judah in Genesis 49:8-12.

In Genesis we are told, **“Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people. Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.”**

Jacob not only speaks of Judah being praised, but also as a lion, maybe because royalty is associated many times with a lion, the king of the beasts you might say.

But I think it is also looking ahead to the Messiah, to Jesus, who is called in Revelation 5:5, **“... the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David ...”**

In Micah 5:2 we read, **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”**

The Almighty God becoming flesh and dwelling amongst us to go to the cross of Calvary to pay in full the penalty for our sins – thus, we praise Him!

Now what is this saying here in Genesis 49:10, “**The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes.**”?

First of all, the “**scepter**” and “**lawgiver**” spoken of here in Genesis 49:10 is speaking of authority, rulership, one who decrees.

This rulership is not to depart from Israel until “**Shiloh comes.**”

The word “**Shiloh**” is the name of a town but that is not what is spoken of here.

The Septuagint translates this verse, “*Until the things laid up in store come into his possession*” or, “*Until he comes to whom it belongs.*” It is a Messianic term!

This can be cross referenced with Ezekiel 21:27, which says, “**Overthrown, overthrown, I will make it overthrown! It shall be no longer, Until He comes whose right it is, And I will give it to Him.**”

Both are speaking of Jesus Christ.

Even the Jewish Talmud, (The collection of ancient Rabbinic writings constituting the basis of religious authority for traditional Judaism), translate “*Shiloh*” as one of the names of the Messiah!

Now here is the problem!

Around 7 A. D. the Roman government took away the right of capital punishment for the Jews. That is why the Jewish leaders presented Christ to the Romans for they wanted Him executed and they could not do it, not legally anyway!

During this time, around 7 A. D. the High Priest put on sackcloth and ashes for the scepter had departed from Israel and Shiloh had not come and they felt the Word of God had been broken.

Here was the problem for them. The Word of God did not fail. You see, some 70 miles to the north, in the town of Nazareth, there lived with His mother and stepfather a young Boy named Jesus. Shiloh had come before the scepter departed from Judah.

You see, Jesus was born around 4 B. C. before the death of Herod the Great.

In Numbers 24:17 we read, **“I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult.”**

Again, this is speaking of Jesus. If Shiloh had not come before the scepter had departed, then He would never come! But He has come from the tribe of Judah and so we too can offer our praise!

Here is a little side note.

The tribe of Simeon is not mentioned here, why?

There are a few thoughts regarding this, but most seem to feel it is because it was a small tribe and it was surrounded by the tribe of Judah and thus, assimilated into that tribe.

Another possibility is that the tribe of Simeon was involved with sin in Numbers chapter 25 with the incident of Baal Peor. It was Zimri, a prince from the tribe of Simeon, who brought idolatry into the heart of the camp and sinned with Cozbi, a priestess of Midian!

So that may be another reason why they were left out in this blessing by Moses.

VERSES 8-11

For the tribe of Levi, Moses prayed that their enemies would be defeated and that this tribe from which the priests came from, the descendants of Aaron were the priests, they would teach the children of Israel the things of God.

Remember, the priests were from the descendants of Aaron, from the tribe of Levi, and then the Levites would assist the priests in the work.

Also, Moses speaks of them using the Urim and Thummin, which were stones that were placed in the breastplate of the High Priest and they were used to cast lots and discern the will of God.

Also, Levi was the tribe that stood with the Lord against their own people with the golden calf incident!

And what we read here does seem to correspond to what Jacob prayed for them in Genesis 49:5-7, that they would be divided and scattered.

And that is exactly what happened to them, they were scattered throughout the land of Israel.

Keep in mind, once they entered the land and established their allotted lands, there were 48 Levitical cities established throughout the land so that they could teach the judgments and Law of God to the people!

VERSE 12

The tribe of Benjamin was not very big and they occupied an area of land that was adjacent to Judah's northern boundary with the city of Jerusalem on the northern border of Judah and the southern border of Benjamin.

Keep in mind that the sanctuary would be located in Jerusalem and Benjamin would be close to the Lord who dwelt there, as this verse seems to indicate, close to the heart of the Lord!

And this also seems to fit what Jacob said of Benjamin back in Genesis 49:27.

Not only that, but this small tribe were fierce warriors. (Judges 5:14)

VERSES 13-17

Next Moses blessed the tribe of Joseph, which is broken down into his two sons: Ephraim and Manasseh.

And, numerically speaking, they were very blessed, and it goes along with the blessing of Jacob given in Genesis 49:22-26.

Also, keep in mind that half the tribe of Manasseh stayed on the east side of the Jordan River in the upper portion of the land, and half on the west side of the Jordan River, in the Promise Land, between the Sea of Galilee and the northern part of the Dead Sea going north to south and they extended east to west from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

VERSES 18-19

Both the tribe of Zebulun and Issachar settled near the Sea of Galilee.

Now I will throw this out to you and you can pray about it.

Before I do, let me ask you this question. What does this mean “**And of treasures hidden in the sand.**”?

I think it is speaking of oil, that is the treasure hidden in the sand. Check out Zion Oil & Gas and how they have looked at what this says here in Deuteronomy, and they applied for a license in this area to dig for oil. And they feel that there may be more oil in Israel than all of the Middle East put together.

We will look at this a little more when we get to the tribe of Asher.

VERSES 20-21

Now Moses gives his blessings to the tribe of Gad, and they also stayed on the east side of the Jordan River, right between the tribes of Manasseh and Reuben.

The tribe of Gad produced powerful warriors for the nation.

In I Chronicles 12:14 we are told of the mighty men Gad provided for King David,

“These were from the sons of Gad, captains of the army; the least was over a hundred, and the greatest was over a thousand.”

This also was the blessing that Jacob spoke of in Genesis 49:19.

VERSE 22

The tribe of Dan was not good. In fact, they brought trouble to the rest of the nation and thus, what Moses is saying here might not be that complimentary. I don't think it is.

Let me show you what I mean about the tribe of Dan and what they brought to the nation.

In Judges 18:30 we see the tribe of Dan introduce idolatry into Israel.

Jeroboam, King of the Northern Kingdom of Israel set up one of his idolatrous golden calves in Dan according to I Kings 12:26-30.

And in the end, the tribe of Dan became the center of idol worship as Amos 8:14 tells us.

When Jacob spoke of this tribe back in Genesis 49:16-17, he also spoke of the trouble of this tribe.

One other point here and that is this reference to Bashan.

This area was in the northern part of Israel, but Dan had land allotted to them in the southern part of Israel.

So what does this mean?

Hundreds of years after Moses spoke these words, the tribe of Dan migrated to the north, in this area of Bashan according to Judges 18.

VERSE 23

The tribe of Naphtali had land that was north and west of the Sea of Galilee and its southern boarder was the Sea of Galilee, which was a blessing.

Also, this was the area that Jesus did most of His earthly ministry around. Thus, when it said “**... full of blessing of the Lord**” that was very true!

And in Genesis 49:21 Jacob spoke of this tribe giving “**goodly words**” or words of beauty. This could be that in this area Jesus spoke words of beauty, goodly words that would bless the people! I think that is the thought.

VERSES 24-25

The tribe of Asher had land allotted to them in the northern part of Israel along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

To the east of Asher were the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali, which I find interesting, and we talked about the oil that they are finding in this area.

Not only that, but this phrase, “**let him dip his foot in oil,**” what does that mean?

Some say that it is speaking of the olive trees and thus, the pressed olives produce olive oil.

Warren Wiersbe sees it this way as he wrote,

To use precious olive oil on your feet would be a mark of wealth, and Asher's territory was blessed with many olive groves. The word translated "*shoes*" is also translated "*bolts*," referring to strong security at the city gates.

So, the tribe would enjoy fertility, brotherly love, prosperity, and security; and the Lord would give them daily strength to accomplish their work. What more could they want?

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – OT, p. 371

That could be, but I also believe it can be a reference to oil being found in Israel!

Listen to this report from 2018 about oil in Israel. We are told,

Moses' blessing to the tribe of Asher regarding oil in the allotment of land is continuing to come to fruition, as Zion Oil & Gas announced Tuesday that it has definitely found oil and it is nearing testing the well for commerciality.

"We also recognize that the goal of this well was to find oil, and we can say with absolute confidence that we were successful in attaining that goal," said Zion's President and Chief Operations Officer Dustin Guinn.

"The next crucial step is being able to effectively test and establish the well's commerciality. I am excited about this phase as it will be a crucial and historic moment for Zion and its shareholders."

Last week, the operators of the Tamar and Leviathan natural-gas fields have signed decade-long contracts to sell \$15 billion worth of natural gas to Egypt. With the news, Israel will now be providing both Egypt and Jordan with natural gas.

Zion is a Christian oil drilling company. In 1983, during a visit to Israel, Zion founder and chairman John Brown became inspired to find oil and gas in Israel. . . .

The company uses a map of the 12 ancient tribes of Israel and the biblical assertion - "*the foot of Asher to be dipped in oil on the head of Joseph*" - as an unlikely guide to help it decide where to drill.

- <https://bit.ly/3wROSys>

And yet, that is where they are finding natural gas and where there is natural gas, there is oil!

VERSES 26-29

Moses speaks of how God has poured out His blessings upon Israel - there is no God like the God of Israel. He comes to their side in times of trouble, defeating their enemies. He makes their land bountiful. They are a people who have been saved by the **LORD**, by **YAHWEH!**

I like how Warren Wiersbe summed these verses. He wrote,

Israel would face many enemies and fight many battles as they conquered the Promised Land, but God would give them victory. They would dwell in a safe and productive land, separated from the pagan nations but bearing witness to them about the God of Israel.

God would be their helper, their shield, and their sword, so they had nothing to fear.

Israel's greatest danger wasn't the armies around them so much as the appetites within them. Their hearts needed to be weaned away from their love for idols and the sins associated with idol worship.

In the end, the Jews accepted and worshiped the gods of the nations they defeated; and this led to the spiritual and moral decay of the nation.

Instead of “*treading on their high places*” (Deut 33:29), Israel sank lower and lower into the pits of sin, until God had to send them into captivity.

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – OT, p. 372

God warned them just as He warns us of the danger of not listening to Him. There are consequences to our actions!

As Christians, look how God has blessed us exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think!

Look at all the blessings that God has for us. Well, not all of them, but just a few.

Look at how He drives out the enemies of our lives.

Look at how He comes to our side to help us in time of need.

We too are a people who have been saved by the **LORD**, by **YAHWEH!**

May we not forget that!

Remember what Paul said in Romans 8:31, “**What then shall we say to these things? If**

God is for us, who can be against us?”

Make no mistake about it, “**There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides the heavens to help you, and in His excellency on the clouds.**”

I don't know if you remember the old hymn, *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*, it goes like this,

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms*

*Leaning, leaning
Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning, leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms*

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near
Leaning on the everlasting arms*

*Leaning, leaning
Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning, leaning
Leaning on the everlasting arms*

- Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

That is where we are safe and secure, in the loving arms, the loving care of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As we move into Deuteronomy chapter 34, we see that this is sort of an appendix to the book. Rather than written by Moses it was probably added later by Joshua, because this includes the death of Moses.

DEUTERONOMY 34VERSES 1-3

This whole range of mountains east of the Jordan River was called Abarim and one of the summits of the mountain was called Pisgah and the other was Nebo, which was probably the higher of these peaks, rising up some 2631 feet. This is where Moses would climb up to die.

Some say on a clear day you can see 120 miles north to Mount Hermon and all the way to the Mediterranean Sea. That seems excessive but it may be the Lord just gave Moses the ability to see all the land that the children of Israel would occupy!

And yes, God did not allow Moses to enter into the Promise Land with the Children of Israel, but He did allow Moses to see all the land that they would possess! How gracious is our God!

And make no mistake about it, our God is so gracious and merciful to us as He was to Moses.

Why do I say that?

Look at all that He did for Moses.

God allowed Moses to enter the Promise Land. I know you are shocked by that statement, but it is true.

Yes, it was not in his day but in Jesus' day!

In Mark 9:1-9 we see this take place as we are told, **“And He said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.’ Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them. And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’ - because he did not know what to say, for they were greatly afraid. And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!’ Suddenly, when they had looked around, they saw no one anymore, but only Jesus with themselves. Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead.”**

Moses appears with Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus!

Not only that, but I also believe that Moses is one of the two witnesses that we see during the Tribulation Period, and we see that in Revelation 11:3-14, where we are told, **“And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.’ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘Come up here.’ And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.”**

Now I do feel for certain that one of these two witnesses is Elijah for we are told in Malachi 4:5-6, **“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”**

I think that is clear.

And the reason I say the other is Moses is because he represented the Law and Elijah the prophets and thus, the witness of the Law and the prophets in the Tribulation Period.

We also see them with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Also, when you look at the miracles that he does they are very similar to what we read that he did in Exodus.

And ultimately, Moses will be in the Kingdom Age with Jesus and us!

So our God is very gracious and merciful with Moses as He is with us!

VERSE 4

Here are the last words that Moses hears from the **LORD** before he died, at least the last words he hears before he dies!

And this is basically what the Lord told Moses. All that He had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob He is more than able to bring to pass. In fact, they will come to pass very shortly as the children of Israel enter into the Promise Land.

Folks, what God has promised to us He is more than able to bring them to pass, all we need to do is trust in Him and walk by faith!

VERSES 5-8

Moses didn't die because he was old or sick. It was not that he had a heart attack or even died of old age.

He died because his work was finished; he completed what God had called him to do.

You see, Moses was the Lawgiver, and the Law could never take you into the Promise Land.

Thus, Joshua was now to lead them and the Greek name for Joshua is Jesus.

I think you see where I am going here.

You see, the Law could never take us into that spirit filled life, only Jesus can.

And so, it will be Joshua who will lead the children of Israel into the Promise Land.

As you read this there is not a lot of fanfare spoken of Moses here. We will get some concluding remarks that I believe Joshua added at the end, but when you think of all that Moses did, there would be more. Think about this.

If Moses had a tombstone, what do you think would be written on it?

It was not "*Moses, Prince of Egypt.*"

It was not "*Moses, Murderer of an Egyptian.*"

It was not "*Moses, Shepherd in the Wilderness.*"

It was not "*Moses, Spokesman for a Nation.*"

It was not "*Moses, Miracle Worker.*"

It was not "*Moses, Prophet.*"

It was not "*Moses, The Law giver.*"

It was not "*Moses, The Man Who Saw a Piece of God's Glory.*"

It was not "*Moses, Who Never Entered the Promised Land.*"

At the end of it all, the title was simple: **Moses the servant of the LORD.**

No fanfare. No big funeral. The work was completed and now Joshua was going to lead the children of Israel into the Promise Land!

Folks, the same is true of every one of us. We are all bondslaves of Jesus Christ and thus, no fanfare for us, just, ***“Joe, the servant of the LORD!”*** And the same is true for you!

You see, God gets the glory and not us!

Also, that phrase, **“according to the word of the LORD”** literally means, ***“upon the mouth of the Lord.”***

In other words, as God gave Moses a kiss, his life on this earth ended and he was home!

Spurgeon put it like this, ***“As a mother takes her child and kisses it, and then lays it down to sleep in its own bed; so did the Lord kiss the soul of Moses away to be with him forever, and then he hid his body we know not where.”***

Here is something that is strange to me. God buried the body of Moses, and no one knows where his grave is to this day.

Why is that?

Because people would make it into a shrine and worship it!

That may be one reason, and it is a big reason. But I think there is more to it, there has to be.

In Jude 9 we are told, **“Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’”**

For some reason there was a satanic contention over the body of Moses!

It could be that Satan was going to do something with the body of Moses and God had other plans for him.

You see, we already saw that Moses was with the Lord on the Mount of Transfiguration and that during the first 3½ years of the 7-year Tribulation Period Moses will be ministering as one of the two witnesses we read about in Revelation chapter 11.

I wish Jude had told us more but that is all we know, and I think that is why God buried the body of Moses!

We also see that the children of Israel mourned for Moses for thirty days and then what happened?

Then they went into a prolonged psychotherapy session to help them through this?

No, that didn't happen!

Maybe they were mad at God and did nothing, they just sat around all day shaking their fist towards God?

No, that didn't happen!

The days of mourning were over, they ended and then it was time to go on, to move forward, to reach for that upward calling that God had upon their lives and enter into the Promise Land! They needed to keep on walking.

What a lesson that should be for us, keep moving forward in the Lord. You see, there are many things we can mourn about, the death of a loved one, the sickness of a loved one, but not only that, there are many other things that can cause us to mourn over, and folks, I am not negating that this does happen or to say you have no faith if you mourn.

We mourn and grieve over many tragic things that happen in our lives. There is nothing wrong with that. But then you must move on!

And you can also mourn for many other things, like rebellious children, the loss of a job, and so on but don't let it paralyze you.

You keep walking and God will give you those times of refreshing that you need. I know that it is hard.

If you are going through a time of mourning right now, give it to the Lord and let His peace and comfort fill your life as you walk as He has called you!

VERSE 9

Joshua was now in charge, God put His Spirit upon him to lead the people and they were to go forward now!

And the people followed Joshua because they saw the kind of leadership that was passed on from Moses to Joshua and as they followed Moses, they will follow Joshua because they knew these men followed the Lord.

VERSES 10-12

Moses was truly a great servant of God and what made him great is his faith. You see, it was God who not only worked in Moses but through Moses and God touched the people through His servant Moses!

In Hebrews 11:23-29 we see Moses spoken of in this section we call the Hall of Faith. And not only do we see Moses but his parents who built in him a love for God.

Paul tells us in these verses, **“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.”**

Moses was a man, with all of man's weaknesses but he was also **“the man of God”** and **“the servant of the LORD.”**

Thompson makes these comments about the man, Moses, *“In him were concentrated all the great offices of Israel – prophet, ruler, judge and priest. If some who held these offices were great, Moses was the greatest of them all.”* I agree!

As we close the door on these first five books of Moses, Genesis through Deuteronomy, the Pentateuch, we will now be entering into the book of Joshua as the children of Israel will now enter into the Promise Land.

I can't wait to see what the Lord will show us as we go through His Word! Thus, may we press on into the Promise Land, that Spirit filled life as we walk in the Lord, surrendered to His Spirit!

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