

The Book of Deuteronomy

The Final Blessing of Moses

Text: Deuteronomy 33 – 34

Introduction:

1. God's command for Moses to go up to Mount Nebo where he would die is recorded at the end of chapter 32.
2. The death of Moses is recorded in chapter 34.
3. In between those two passages stands chapter 33 – “The blessing wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death.”

- I. Introduction (33:1-5)
 - A. Note that Moses was called the “man of God.”
 - B. This blessing is tied to the promise made to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3) and the blessing bestowed by Jacob at the end of his life (Gen. 49).
 - C. Vs. 2 – The glory of God
 - D. Vs. 3 – The love of God
 - E. Vs. 4 – The law of God
 - F. Vs. 5 – The authority of God
 1. Jeshurun is a symbolic name for Israel (Deut. 32:15; 33:5, 26; Isa. 44:2).
 2. It means, “Upright; the upright people; the righteous ones.”
 3. Note that God was their King.
- II. The Blessing (33:6-25)
 - A. Vs. 6 – Blessing upon Reuben
 - B. Vs. 7 – Blessing upon Judah
 1. See Genesis 49:8-12
 2. God would hear the prayers of Judah.
 3. Thus, He would guide and protect them.
 - C. Vs. 8-11 – Blessing upon Levi
 1. The High Priest (and the priesthood) would be from the tribe of Levi.
 2. They had been chosen for this honor because of their faithfulness (Exo. 32:26-29).
 3. They were responsible for teaching the law to the people.
 4. They were responsible for the worship of Israel.
 5. They were responsible for the sacrifices of Israel.
 - D. Vs. 12 – Blessing upon Benjamin
 - E. Vs. 13-17 – Blessing upon Joseph
 - F. Vs. 18-19 – Blessing upon Zebulun and Issachar
 - G. Vs. 20-21 – Blessing upon Gad
 - H. Vs. 22 – Blessing upon Dan
 - I. Vs. 23 – Blessing upon Naphtali
 - J. Vs. 24-25 – Blessing upon Asher
- III. Conclusion (33:26-29)

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IV. The Death of Moses

(32:48-52; 34:1-12)

- A. God commanded Moses to go up into the mountain where he would die.
 1. Compare this passage with Numbers 27:12-14.
 2. Mount Nebo was located on the east side of the Jordan River – directly across from Jericho.
 3. From it could be seen the Dead Sea, the Jordan River valley, the city of Jericho, and – in the distance – the hills of Jerusalem.
- B. Before he died, Moses would be allowed to look upon the Land of Canaan – but, he would not be allowed to enter into it with the children of Israel.
 1. Note that Moses was able to see all the way to Dan and Naphtali, far north in the land (around 100 miles).
 2. Though Moses’ “eye was not dim,” it seems that God aided him in seeing all the promised land of Canaan.
- C. Moses died in the land of Moab, without ever entering into the land of Canaan.
- D. He was buried by God in an unknown location (cf. Jude 9).
- E. Moses was 120 years old when he died.
- F. He was mourned by Israel for 30 days.
- G. Then, following the leadership of Joshua, they began their final steps toward the land of Canaan!



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