

Life of Moses Study (December 13, 2020)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Deuteronomy 34:1-12

NOTE: After the punishment of the venomous snakes and God's provision of an antidote (by looking up at the bronze serpent), Moses led the Israelites around Edom towards Moab. They experienced victories over the Amorite King Sihon and Og, the King of Bashan. As they camped in the plains of Moab, the people found opposition from King Balak of Moab who feared that he too would be defeated. He hired the prophet Balaam to curse Israel. Much to the king's distress, Balaam's curse ended up being a blessing to Israel and a curse on Moab.

Since cursing the Israelites was unsuccessful, Balaam advised King Balak to entice the people away from God to the worship of Baal, so that God would withdraw His blessing from them (Numbers 22-25; 31:8,16; Revelation 2:14). Unfortunately, the men of Israel were seduced by the women of Moab and succumbed to the god Baal. In judgment, God sent a plague that claimed the lives of 24,000 people. Eventually, He arrested the plague because Phinehas (grandson of Aaron) stood up for the LORD's honor and took action to stop the abominations (Numbers 25).

God called Moses to take a census of the new generation and select leaders in preparation for the occupation of Canaan. Joshua had been appointed as Moses' successor to lead the people. The LORD also told Moses that he was about to die and so Moses made final preparations to leave the people he had led for 40 years.

"Moses' role in Deuteronomy is not that of a lawgiver, but a pastor (Numbers 27:17; Isaiah 63:11). Knowing that his death is imminent...Moses gathers his congregation and delivers his final homily, pleading with the Israelites to remain faithful to Yahweh. The texts he has left us are not to be read primarily as law, but as discourses on the implications of the Israelite covenant for a people about to enter the land promised under the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 15:7-21; 26:3; Exodus 6:2-8)."

(NIV Life Application Commentary-Deuteronomy by Daniel L. Block)

1. What was the "good news-bad news" the Lord gave to Moses (Deuteronomy 31:14-18, 23; 32:48-50)?

2. For what purpose do you think God showed Moses "all the land" (Deuteronomy 34:1-4)?

3. Share your thoughts regarding how Moses might have felt about not entering the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 32:51-52; 34:1-4).

4. Describe details you find interesting or significant concerning Moses' age, death and burial (Deuteronomy 34:5-8)?

5. How is Moses honored in reference to Joshua (Deuteronomy 34:9)?

6. Based on what you have learned through this study, give support to the statement describing Moses as "the man of God" (Deuteronomy 33:1).

7. From your study of the "Life of Moses" share any poignant thoughts and how you were impacted regarding:

Moses

The Israelites

The Lord