

Lesson 10 – Deuteronomy 33-Joshua 1

Text: Deuteronomy 33-Joshua 1

Key Passages:

- Deuteronomy 33:29 – Moses reminds the people that they are uniquely protected by God.
- Deuteronomy 34:10-12 – There was never again a prophet like Moses until Jesus came.
- Joshua 1:9 – God reassures Joshua that He will be with him, just be strong and courageous.

Main Storyline:

Before Moses went up to Mount Nebo to die, as God had commanded, he gave one last blessing on the tribes of Israel. He reminded them of God's power as well as His love for Israel. Then, tribe by tribe, he gave a final blessing to the Israelites, much like Jacob had done for his sons. Moses' final words to the people were a reminder that God was always with them. He rhetorically points out how blessed they are when he asks, "Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord..." God had promised to protect Israel even as he was destroying the Canaanites for their wickedness.

Following these final words, Moses went up to Mount Nebo as God had instructed him. The Lord then showed Moses all of the Promised Land, from Gilead (the land east of the Jordan River) all the way to the Western Sea (today, the Mediterranean Sea). The Lord reminded Moses that He had promised to show him the land, but he would not be able to enter it. After he had seen the land, Moses died on the top of Mount Nebo, just as God said. Moses was 120 years old when he died, though God had preserved his eyesight and vitality up to his death. Following his death, God buried his body in the land of Moab, though no one knew the exact location. Moses was a special prophet in that he was known by God "face to face." There was never a prophet like Moses in Israel until Jesus ultimately came as the Messiah.

In response to Moses' death, the Israelites wept for 30 days. After the period of mourning was over, however, Joshua, the next leader of Israel, prepared to enter Canaan. God spoke to Joshua and reminded him, just as He had reminded Moses, that he and the people would need to be strong and courageous in Canaan, trusting in God's power to deliver them from their enemies. God promised never to leave nor forsake Israel in their conquest of Canaan, so long as they did not stop obeying Him.

Joshua then spoke to the officers of the people, telling them to prepare themselves and the people, because they would be entering Canaan to begin taking it in just 3 days. He also had a special message for the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh, as they had already received their share of the land (Gilead, east of the Jordan River). He reminded them of their pledge, that they had promised that their army would accompany and assist the rest of the Israelites until every tribe had received their land. Upon hearing his exhortation and reminder, the people affirmed that they would keep their oath, and that they would obey Joshua as long as God was with him. They also pledged that anyone that rebelled against Joshua and God would be executed for their wickedness. Finally, they repeated the exhortation that Moses and God had given before, "Be strong and courageous."

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) There is no one so blessed as the one who is treasured and protected by God.
- 2.) Deuteronomy 34 could double as an epitaph on the gravestone of Moses. Note how he is described and how his body is treated after his death (personal burial by God). It should cause us to look inwardly and ponder what others would say about our lives if we were to die today.
- 3.) After his death, Moses was frequently described as God's servant. Likewise, leaders, especially, must recognize that service to others and to God is required for acceptance by Him.
- 4.) We must "be strong and courageous" to obey God in all types of situations.