

The Last Days of Moses

Numbers 20:1-13, 27:12-23; Deuteronomy 6-8, 18:15-18, 31-34

We have learned how Moses spent 40 days on Mt. Sinai when God gave him the Ten Commandments. Forty years later, when Moses' life was almost over, God took him to the top of another mountain. In our story today we will hear about what God did for Moses on top of Mt. Nebo. We will also look ahead to another time, hundreds of years later when Moses was on a mountain with Jesus.



Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to learn more about You and Your will for us through our study of Your servant Moses. Teach us the importance of listening to Your Word and living according to it. Bless our study and increase our faith and trust in You. Amen.

The Last Days of Moses

Numbers 20:1-13; 27:12-23 Deuteronomy 6 - 8; 18:15-18; 30-34

After 40 years of wandering in the desert, the Children of Israel came to the east side of the Jordan River. The land of Canaan lay on the other side of the Jordan River. God's servant Moses had led the people out of Egypt to the border of the promised land; however, he would not be able to enter Canaan with them. Earlier, Moses had disobeyed God's command when God told him to speak to the rock in order to get water for the people.

(Numbers 20:7-12) Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, {8} "Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals."

{9} So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him. {10} And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together

before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" {11} Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

{12} Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

At this time Moses was 120 years old. For the first 40 years of his life, he had been a prince in Egypt. He spent the next 40 years of his life tending sheep in the land of Midian near Mt. Sinai. During the last 40 years of his life, he was the leader of the Children of Israel as they journeyed to the promised land.



Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible as God gave him the words to write. In the book of **Genesis** he told of how God created the world and took care of His people until they were delivered from the bondage of Egypt. Then Moses recorded the journey of the Israelites from Egypt to Mt. Sinai in the book of **Exodus**. After God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, he recorded all of God's laws and instructions for His chosen people in the book of **Leviticus**. In **Numbers**, Moses recorded the 40 years of wandering from Mt. Sinai to the borders of Canaan.

Now Moses knew that he would soon die, so he called the people together. His farewell address is recorded in the book of **Deuteronomy**. Moses reminded the people of how God had taken care of them on their long journey to the promised land.

(Deuteronomy 7:6) "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

(Deuteronomy 8:2) "And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

He also told them again that the Savior would come as God had promised. Through Him they would someday enter the Promised Land of Heaven.

(Deuteronomy 18:15) "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear."

He reminded them that as God's people they should obey His commandments and live as His children.

(Deuteronomy 6:5-9) "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. {6} "And these words which I command you today shall be in

your heart. {7} "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. {8} "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. {9} "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Finally Moses told the people that they should not be afraid to conquer the land of Canaan because God would be with them.

(Deuteronomy 31:6) "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

The Lord told Moses to go to the top of Mt. Nebo, and He would show him the land that He had promised Abraham and all his descendants. The Children of Israel were very sad as they watched their beloved leader climb the mountain where he would die.

After God showed Moses the beautiful land of Canaan, Moses died. God Himself buried Moses. No one knows where he was buried.

Many years later Moses returned to this earth one more time. When Jesus took His disciples to a mountain to show them His glory before He died on the cross, Moses appeared on that mountain with the prophet Elijah.

Through the story of Moses we can see how God takes care of His servants and uses them to accomplish His work. We can also learn how important it is not to change what God tells us to do in His Word. We pray that God would use us to do His work and that He would teach us to obey Him in all that we do.

Outer Aim - Moses prepared God's people for his death.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think Moses hit the rock instead of speaking to it?
2. Why is it important for us to never make changes in what God says in His Word?
3. How is Moses an example for us both in what we should do and in what we should not do?
4. Was Moses more concerned about himself or about the Children of Israel when he knew he wouldn't be entering the Promised Land with them? How do you know this?
5. Compare our journey through life to the Israelite's journey through the wilderness.
 - a) Who led the Children of Israel?
 - b) Who leads us?
 - a) What dangers did the Children of Israel face?
 - b) What dangers do we face?
 - a) Where did the journey end for the Children of Israel?
 - b) Where will our journey through life end?

What God's Word Tells Us - Use your Bible for the following.

Numbers 27:12 - 21

What did the Lord tell Moses to do? (vs.12)

What did God say would happen? (vs.13)

Why did it have to be this way? (vs.14)

What did Moses want the Lord to do? (vs.15 -17)

What did the Lord instruct Moses to do? (vs.18-21)

Deuteronomy 34

Where did Moses go? (vs.1)

What did the Lord show him? (vs.1-3)

To whom had the Lord promised this land? (vs.4)

What happened to Moses? (vs.5)

Who buried him? (vs.6)

How is Moses described physically? (vs.7)

How is he described as a prophet? (vs.10-12)

Passages

Deuteronomy 6:5 - You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Psalms 143:10 - Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

Revelation 14:13 - Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

Inner Aim - God wants us to prepare for our death.

Hymn - TLH 410

Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand to our fatherland.

When we seek relief from a long-felt grief;
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.

If the way be drear, if the Foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many a woe to our home we go.

Jesus, lead Thou on till our rest is won.
Heav'nly Leader, still direct us,
Still support, control, protect us,
Till we safely stand in our fatherland.

Whom are we asking to lead us in this life?

When will "our rest be won"?

Where is our "fatherland"?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, teach us to trust You in everything we do. Many times we want to do things our own way instead of Your way. Forgive us for not always listening to what You tell us to do in Your Word. Thank You for giving us pastors and teachers to be our leaders and to teach us about Jesus our Savior. In His name we pray. Amen.