

Moses: The Lord's Servant – Final Words.

Deuteronomy 34

How do you want to be remembered? It's too late to be concerned about legacy when you're dying. The time to work on your legacy is NOW...TODAY! How you follow the Lord, live for the Lord matters...and others will know who you are and who you follow by the way you live.

"Every man's life ends the same way. It is only the details of how he lived and how he died that distinguish one man from another." —Ernest Hemingway

Moses has lived 120 years! 40 years as a prince in Egypt. 40 years as a nomad servant in Midian. 40 years as God's prophet and leader of Israel. In Chapter 33, we read the final words of Moses...a chapter where he blesses the people of Israel. Beautiful words! Moses is not bitter in the end...he graciously blesses the people who drove him mad. A people who in anger led him to disobey the Lord.

- ⁶ Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the doorway of the tent of

meeting. They fell facedown, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them.⁷ **The Lord spoke to Moses,**⁸ "Take the staff and assemble the community. You and your brother Aaron are to speak to the rock while they watch, and it will yield its water. You will bring out water for them from the rock and provide drink for the community and their livestock."⁹ So Moses took the staff from the Lord's presence just as he had commanded him.¹⁰ Moses and Aaron summoned the assembly in front of the rock, and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels! **Must we bring water out of this rock for you?**"¹¹ Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff, so that abundant water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.¹² But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust me to demonstrate my holiness in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this assembly into the land I have given them." – Numbers 20:8-12

Moses even angered the Lord by asking Him to change His mind:

- ²³ "At that time, **I begged the Lord:** ²⁴ Lord God, you have begun to show your greatness and your strong hand to your servant, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can perform deeds and mighty acts like yours? ²⁵ **Please let me cross over and see the beautiful land on the other side of the Jordan,** that good hill country and Lebanon. ²⁶ **But the Lord was angry with me because of you and would not listen to me.** The Lord said to me, 'That's enough! Do not speak to me again about this matter. ²⁷ Go to the top of Pisgah and look to the west, north, south, and east, and see it with your own eyes, for you will not cross the Jordan. ²⁸ But commission Joshua and encourage and strengthen him, for he will cross over ahead of the people and enable them to inherit this land that you will see.' ²⁹ So we stayed in the valley facing Beth-peor. – Deuteronomy 3:23-29

Now, after blessing Israel, the end of Moses comes to be. Most commentators believe chapter 34 is written by either Joshua or Aaron's son Eliazor. Whoever wrote it, the Bible is God-breathed...it's His Word! Look how the Lord has Moses remembered...forever!

1.) Seeing the Promised Land –

Deuteronomy 34:1-3.

- *"Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which faces Jericho, and **the Lord showed him all the land: Gilead as far as Dan, ² all of Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, ³ the Negev, and the plain in the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar.** "(V.1-3)*

- a. Moses is called up to the top of Mount Nebo (Some 4000 feet)**
- b. From there, that height, he can see the promised land. The people are on the**

east side of the Jordan. Just across the river is Jerico...one of the oldest most influential cities.

- c. He can see the beautiful, fertile land the Lord promised.**

2.) The Death of Moses – Deuteronomy

34:4-8

- a. God Himself speaks to and shows Moses the promised land.** "⁴ *The Lord then said to him, "This is the land I promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you will not cross into it."* (V.4)

- b. Notice God's term for Moses: "So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the Lord's word."** (V.5)

- 1. He serves the Lord...Moses humbly did what the Lord told him

2. He led Israel but followed the Lord...the reason he prospered.

3. God's Word stands...God means what He says and says what He means.

c. Notice God's personal involvement

with Moses' death: *"6 He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab facing Beth-peor, and no one to this day knows where his grave is."* (V.6)

1. God buried Moses...so people wouldn't worship his grave. Or take a pilgrimage to note the grave of Moses. Israel repeatedly raised up false gods...this is there pattern and the Lord protected them from themselves.

2. It's the only time in scripture where God buries someone...a testament to the special bond between God and Moses.

3. God honored Moses with this...He honors those who seek Him. *"6 Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he*

exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” – Hebrews 11:6

d. Notice how blessed the servant of the Lord is...in everything! *¹⁷ Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his eyes were not weak, and his vitality had not left him.” (V.7)*

1. Moses' undiminished vitality at 120 years old is a testament to God's sustaining power. It signifies that Moses remained vigorous and capable, both physically and spiritually, until the end of his life. This vitality is a reflection of his close relationship with God and his role as a prophet and leader. It also serves as a type of Christ, who, though crucified, demonstrated ultimate strength and life through His resurrection. Moses' enduring strength is a reminder of the potential for divine empowerment in fulfilling God's purposes.

e. Moses is missed and mourned: *¹⁸ The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab*

thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses came to an end." (V.8)

1. Israel morns for Moses for 30 days on the east of Jordan. After this, Joshua would lead them into the promised land. *"After the death of **Moses the Lord's servant,** the Lord spoke to Joshua, son of Nun, Moses's assistant: ² "Moses my servant is dead. Now you and all the people prepare to cross over the Jordan to the land I am giving the Israelites. ³ I have given you every place where the sole of your foot treads, just as I promised Moses." Joshua 1:1-3*

3.) The Legacy of Moses – Deuteronomy

34:9-12

a. The protégé of Moses, Joshua now steps forward into leadership. *"Joshua, son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So, the Israelites obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses." (V.9)*

1. Joshua followed Moses during his life. He was often at Moses's side. (The tent of meeting; waiting at the base of the mountain while Moses talked with God, etc.)
2. Moses acknowledged Joshua publicly by laying hands on him...passing the mantle of leadership.

b. Notice Moses's place in God's story:

"No prophet has arisen again in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. ¹¹ He was unparalleled for all the signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do against the land of Egypt—to Pharaoh, to all his officials, and to all his land— ¹² and for all the mighty acts of power and terrifying deeds that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel." (V.10-12)

1. This is God's eulogy for Moses!
2. Until Jesus himself, there's none like Moses.
3. Moses's power...his close relationship with the Lord!

CONCLUSION

"The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith."—Billy Graham

"²³ By faith Moses, after he was born, was hidden by his parents for three months, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they didn't fear the king's edict. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter ²⁵ and chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin. ²⁶ For he considered reproach for the sake of Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since he was looking ahead to the reward.

²⁷ By faith he left Egypt behind, not being afraid of the king's anger, for Moses persevered as one who sees him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he instituted the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn might not touch the Israelites. ²⁹ By faith they crossed the Red Sea as though they were on dry land. When the Egyptians

attempted to do this, they were drowned." –

Hebrews 11:23-29

1500 years after the death of Moses...God mentions him in the hall of faith! Talk about a legacy! How will the Lord and those who know you remember you?