

Deuteronomy Chapter 33

V: 1-5 Moses, like the God he serves – seeks to bless the people.

- This is very much like when Jacob at the end of the book of Genesis gathered his 12 sons to himself and he prophesied and blessed each of his sons.

“Moses the man of God...”

- This phrase is used 60 times in the Bible, for the first time here describing Moses.

The last time:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

- There is no higher title for a man; just to be a man of God, to be known as a man of God!

V: 2 The glory of the Lord shined forth from Sinai, and from Seir (Edom), and from Mount Paran, or the wilderness of Paran out in the Sinai Desert.

- Memorable events, highlights in Moses’ ministry.

Habakkuk 3:3 “God came from Teman (Edom), and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise.”

“... from His right hand went a fiery law...”

Exodus 31:18 “And He gave unto Moses, when He had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.”

V: 3 Speaking of God’s love for the people – referred to here for the 2nd time as “saints”.

- The motive for the giving of the Law was God’s love for His people. His motive is always love!

1 John 4:8 “... for God is love.”

- This is the first appearance of the word “saints” in the Bible (V: 2-3).

“Saints”: (H6944). qodesh, ko'-desh; a sacred place or thing; consecrated (thing), dedicated (thing), hallowed (thing), holiness, holy, saint, sanctuary.

- Referring to a holy or consecrated thing, or in this case a person. Holy, set apart for God's exclusive use.

1 Peter 1:15-16 “¹⁵But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.”

V: 3b-4 “^{3b}... *everyone shall receive of thy words.* ⁴*Moses commanded us a law, even the inheritance of the congregation of Jacob.*”

- Entering into the promised land was a tremendous blessing, but the receiving of God's Word is the better, and is what would lead to salvation.

Psalm 119:165 “Great peace have those that love thy law, and nothing shall cause them to stumble.”

Psalm 119:111 “Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.”

V: 5 “... *King of Jeshurun*...” This is a poetic name for Israel is first used in the previous chapter.

- Jeshurun: (H-3484). Yeshuruwn, yesh-oo-roon'; upright; Jeshurun, a symbolic name for Israel describing her ideal character. Jeshurun = “upright one”.
- Moses used this name for the first time in Chapter 32 and uses it twice again here in this chapter just before he dies. Why would Moses refer to Israel, Jacob as “Jeshurun”?
- The answer is because Moses is now seeing Israel the same way that God does, as upright. Not necessarily what they are at the moment, but taking the long view, the end view; Moses sees them as God does, through the shed blood of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 13:7 Love “beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”

- We need to adopt Moses' perspective and see the saints all around us the way God sees them – through the righteousness of Jesus!

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- Now we get into the actual blessings upon the 12 sons of Jacob.
 - It might be tempting to compare the blessings of Moses to those of Jacob upon his sons in Genesis 49. But Jacob in his “blessing” and prophecy was seemingly more revealing their hidden character and their sins, whereas Moses is lovingly blessing his flock.
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V: 6 **Reuben**: “Behold a son”

1. May Reuben live and not die – life.
 2. May their descendants be many.
- The tribe of Reuben had diminished quite a bit; they were one of the tribes that had a net loss over the 40 years of wandering, then there was the sin of Dathan and Abiram where those families were swallowed up by the earth, thus the blessing about living, not dying, and about descendants.

V: 7 **Judah**: “Praise”

Psalm 100:4 “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.”

1. That God would hear their voice.
2. That they would come to their people, fathers – in peace at a ripe old age.
3. That his hands would be sufficient, that he would have the strength that he needs.
4. That God would help him against his enemies.

Simeon: “Hearing”; is the only tribe left out of the blessings; perhaps being surrounded by Judah, or integrated into Judah’s blessing.

V: 8-11 **Levi**, the priestly tribe: “Attached” or “Joined to”.

- Urim: Light Thummim: perfection, part of the priestly garments, indicating their connection to God through the priesthood.
- Not perfect, they too tested God at Massah and at the waters of Meribah.
 1. They shall teach Jacob the law of the Lord and His ways.
 2. They shall offer incense / prayer in the Holy of Hollies, and sacrifices upon the altar ministering to God.
 3. Bless the work of his hands and everything that he has, strike down his enemies.

V: 12 **Benjamin**: “Son of my right hand” or “Son of my strength”.

1. Shall dwell in safety, by Him, near the Lord.
2. The Lord shall be his covering.
3. He shall dwell between His shoulders, as the Shepherd carries the lamb over His shoulders, around His neck. A place of closeness and intimacy with the Lord.

- Later the Temple would be constructed in Jerusalem, in Benjamin surrounded by shouldering hills. Benjamin is pictured as a beloved tribe enjoying intimate communion with the Lord.

V: 13-17 **Joseph:** “Adding” - “Jehovah has added”

1. Bless the fruit of his land, the precious things of heaven – the rain, the dew, the waters the lie beneath.
2. Bless the sunlight that brings forth the fruit, the moon light at night.
3. Bless his mountains and his hills.
4. V: 16 “... *the good will of Him that dwelt in the bush*” – The burning bush.
5. Separated from his brethren, bless him through Ephraim and Manasseh. Ephraim received the birthright and therefore is ascribed 10,000's as opposed to thousands of Manasseh.

V: 18-19 **Zebulun:** “Exalted” Rejoice in your going out.

- **Issachar:** “Hireling” or “Man for hire”, “Reward”.
 1. They will be blessed in their tents.

They, together – a combined blessing: “Going out and coming in” – daily life.

2. Calling the people to the mountain.
3. Offering sacrifices of righteousness.
4. Enjoying the abundance of the sea, and the treasures hidden in the sand.
 - Both tribes were “land-locked” so this might point to a prophetic fulfillment.

V: 20-21 **Gad:** “Troop” – “Fortune”

1. Blessed are those that enlarge or bless Gad.
2. Dwelling like a lion, confident and secure.

1 Chronicles 12:8 “And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, and men of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains;”

3. Tearing the arm / breaking the strength, completely – to the top of the head.
4. Gad would be used as God's instrument of judgment.

V: 22 **Dan**: “Justice”, or “Judged”

- Gad was a lion, Dan is a lion’s whelp – a cub. Gad got the “first part” because he was willing to do the hard work, fight the battles, etc. Dan found the portion of land he was given to be too much, to difficult so he moved north and ended up in the worst place, the place that was always attacked first.
1. Leaping from Bashan to the Northern part of the kingdom.

V: 23 **Naphtali**: “Wrestling”.

1. Favored of the Lord and full of His blessing.
2. Possessing the West and the South?

V: 24-25 **Asher**: “Happy” – “Blessed”.

1. Blessed with children.
2. At peace with his brethren.
3. Dipping his foot in oil, bountiful prosperous olive groves. (Valuable commodity)
4. Shoes of iron & brass – strength, not wearing out, judgment...? Also translated as “bolts” referring to that which makes their gates strong and secure.

V: 26 There is no God like the God of Jeshurun – God of the righteous / upright.

Isaiah 40:18 “To whom then will ye liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare unto Him?”

Isaiah 46:5 “To whom will ye liken Me, and make Me equal, and compare Me, that we may be alike?”

- He rides, moves through the heavens.

V: 27 He is the eternal God:

Moses picks up the same theme:

Psalm 90:1-2 “¹Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. ²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

- He is their / our refuge:

Psalm 91:1-2 “¹He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.”

- God will drive out their enemies out from before them.

V: 28-29 Israel shall dwell in safety, they shall be blessed and prosper – there will be no other people to compare them to because of God’s blessing upon them.

- Their enemies shall be found liars, they will tread upon, desecrate their holy places.

Deuteronomy Chapter 34

V: 1-4 After pronouncing blessing upon Jeshurun Moses goes up to the top of Mt. Pisgah.

- The Lord showed him, meaning He gave Moses the ability to see the depth and breadth of the promised land.
- God allowed Moses to see the land which was promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but he was not allowed to enter therein.

V: 5 Moses died there in the land of Moab just as God had said.

Hebrews 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

- Appointed to a specific time and date that only God knows.

Job 14:5 “Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;”

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

“... *according to the word of the Lord.*” - Just as God said.

Psalms 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”

V: 6 “He” buried him / Moses – God buried Moses, or perhaps Michael the archangel buried Moses, so that no one would try to go back and make a monument or a pilgrimage.

Jude 9 “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses,...”

- Why would the Devil want the body of Moses except for evil? Buried away from the sight or knowledge of man, guarded by the angels.

V: 7 120 years old, his eyes were not dim, nor his strength diminished – still going strong.

- He didn't die of old age or disease, no confusing the fact that God specifically took Moses when it was his time to go.

V: 8 They wept for Moses for 30 days.

V: 9 Joshua, full of the Spirit. Acknowledged through the laying on of Moses hands.

Numbers 27:18-20 “¹⁸And the Lord said unto Moses, take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; ¹⁹and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. ²⁰And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.”

- Spiritual leadership requires being filled with the Spirit of God.

V: 10-12 There was never to be another prophet like unto Moses that had seen so much, that had spoken to God face to face, and all the mighty works.

Exodus 33:11 “And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend...”

After that, God Himself came:

John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Hebrews 1:1-3 “¹God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ²hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; ³who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

- Moses spent time with God, he listened to God's word, and he followed God's direction.

“Moses the man of God...”