

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Deuteronomy Part-33 (chapter 31) KJV

9.13.2023

Chapter 31

Moses final exhortation to Joshua and Israelites | The book

When does Moses recognize that his time is coming to an end? What is the message given by Moses to Israelites? Why shouldn't Israelites worry about change of leadership? (1-6)

What charge did Moses give Joshua? Was it given publicly or privately? (7-8) (14-15, 23)

What did Moses deliver to the priests? Where was the book placed? What instructions did Moses give to the priests? (9-13, 24-27)

What type of song did God ask Moses to write? (16-22)

What message did Moses give elders and officers? (28-29)

Message of Moses to Israelites (1-6)

31:1-6

And Moses went and spake these words unto all Israel. ² And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the Lord hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

³ The Lord thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the Lord hath said. ⁴ And the Lord shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed.

⁵ And the Lord shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you.

⁶ Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Life of Moses:

² And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the Lord hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

40 years in the palace

40 years in exile in the wilderness as a shepherd

40 years as the leader of Israel

Life of Moses is now coming to the end

- Moses recognizes his physical weakness
- Moses acknowledges that he will not enter the promised land (Numbers 20:7-12, Deuteronomy 3:23-27)

Deuteronomy 3:25 I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan,²⁶ But the Lord was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the Lord said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter.

Encouraging Message of Moses to Israelites ... nothing has changed

- Lord will go before thee (just as before)
- Lord will fight for you (just as before)
- Lord will not fail you (just as before)
- Lord will not forsake you (just as before)

Circumstances may change ... **but our God does not change** ... we should not be anxious!

Malachi 3:6 For I am the Lord, I do not change

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Message of Moses to Israelites... nothing has changed

Be strong and of a good courage,
fear not, nor be afraid of them: for
the Lord thy God, he it is that doth
go with thee; he will not fail thee,
nor forsake thee (6)

While leadership is going to change, Lord is not going to change

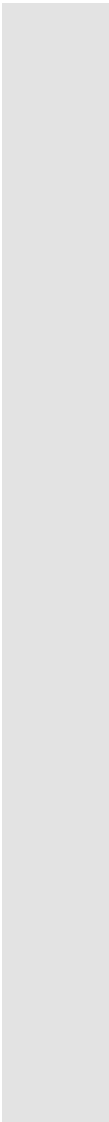

There is no reason for Israelites to be anxious.

Success of ministry/church does not depend upon any individual person

We should not glorify leaders ...

John the Baptist had the right attitude “He must increase; I must decrease” (John 3:30)

Paul had the right exhortation, “whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (I Corinthians 10:31)



In following sections,
verses out of sequence
to maintain continuity
and avoid duplication

Message to Joshua

(7, 8, 14-15, 23)

Message to new leader, Joshua

(7-8, 14-15, 23)

⁷ And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the Lord hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. ⁸ And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

¹⁴ And the Lord said unto Moses, Behold, thy days approach that thou must die: call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of the congregation, that I may give him a charge. And Moses and Joshua went, and presented themselves in the tabernacle of the congregation. ¹⁵ And the Lord appeared in the tabernacle in a pillar of a cloud: and the pillar of the cloud stood over the door of the tabernacle.

²³ And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swear unto them: and I will be with thee.

Message to Joshua

(7-8, 14-15, 23)

Moses & Joshua present themselves in the tabernacle and the Lord appears (14-15)

Message to encourage Joshua (7-8) Charge given by God (14)

- Be Strong
- God will be with you
- God will enable you to enter the promised land

Moses Plea, Exodus 33:15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.

Moses recognized the value of God's presence! Here God was promising His presence to Joshua.

Message to Joshua

(7-8, 14-15, 23)

Moses lead faithfully for 40-years, but the promise of promised land will see its fulfillment through Joshua.

We may not always reap the rewards of our labor

I Corinthians 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase

The “book of the law” and
charge to priests
(9-13, 24-27)

The book of the law and Charge to the Priests

(9-13, 24-27)

WRITING OF THE LAW ⁹ And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and unto all the elders of Israel.

CHARGE TO THE PRIESTS ¹⁰ And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles, ¹¹ When all Israel is come to appear before the Lord thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. ¹² Gather the people together, men and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: ¹³ And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

PLACEMENT OF THE BOOK OF THE LAW ²⁴ And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, ²⁵ That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying, ²⁶ Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee. ²⁷ For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the Lord; and how much more after my death?

Writing of the laws

²⁶ Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.

Instructions to Kings

Deuteronomy 17:18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

Moses told to do the same ... Moses writes and delivers it to the priests (9)

The book of law placed by the side of the ark as a witness against Israelites (26) The tablets were placed inside the ark (Exodus 25:16)

Charge to the priests

Charge: Read the book publicly at the end of every seven years(11)

Where: in the place where Lord shall choose (11)

Audience: men, women, children, and strangers

Purpose (12, 13): especially important for children who have not heard the laws before

Hear

Learn

Fear the Lord (reverence)

Observe

Be blessed

The book of the law found during King Josiah reign (II Chronicles 28)

^{28:1} Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign,

^{28:14} **Book found!** Hilkiyah the priest found a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses.

^{28:18} **Book read & reaction!** Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath given me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. ¹⁹ And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes.

²⁵ **Book punishes!** Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched.

²⁶ **God pardons!** And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to enquire of the Lord, so shall ye say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel concerning the words which thou hast heard; ²⁷ Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the Lord. ²⁸ Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same.

Reading of the book by Joshua

Joshua 8:30-35

³⁰ Then Joshua built an altar unto the Lord God of Israel in mount Ebal,

³¹ As Moses the servant of the Lord commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the Lord, and sacrificed peace offerings.

³² And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel.

³³ And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, as well the stranger, as he that was born among them; half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal; as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel.

³⁴ And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law.

³⁵ There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.

Reading of the book by Ezra the priest

Nehemiah 8:

Nehemiah 8: And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel. ² And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.

⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: ⁶ And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁷ Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. ⁸ So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

Sad Song of Moses

(16-22, 30)

(song in *ch. 32)

Song of Moses (16-22, 30) (*ch. 32)

- ¹⁶ And the Lord said to Moses: “You are going to rest with your ancestors, and these people will soon prostitute themselves to the foreign gods of the land they are entering. They will forsake me and break the covenant I made with them. ¹⁷ And in that day I will become angry with them and forsake them; I will hide my face from them, and they will be destroyed. Many disasters and calamities will come on them, and in that day they will ask, ‘Have not these disasters come on us because our God is not with us?’ ¹⁸ And I will certainly hide my face in that day because of all their wickedness in turning to other gods.
- ¹⁹ **“Now write down this song and teach it to the Israelites and have them sing it, so that it may be a witness for me against them.”** ²⁰ When I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, the land I promised on oath to their ancestors, and when they eat their fill and thrive, they will turn to other gods and worship them, rejecting me and breaking my covenant. ²¹ And when many disasters and calamities come on them, this song will testify against them, because it will not be forgotten by their descendants. I know what they are disposed to do, even before I bring them into the land I promised them on oath.” ²² So Moses wrote down this song that day and taught it to the Israelites. ³⁰ And Moses recited the words of this song from beginning to end in the hearing of the whole assembly of Israel:

Sad Song of Moses

Moses asked to write a Sad song that captures the falling away of the Israelites after Moses departure

- Israelites will fall into sin of idolatry (16)
 - When they are full and waxen fat (20)
- Forsake God and break the covenant (16)
- God will be angry and punish (17, 18)
 - God will forsake them
 - God will hide his face
 - They will be devoured
 - Will be victims of many evils and troubles shall befall them
 - ... they will recognize that God's presence is no longer among them
- Moses to writes this song and teach to the children of Israel; Song will be a witness for God against the children of Israel (19,21,22)
- (Song found in chapter 32)

Message to elders and officers (28-29)

Message to elders and officers (28-29)

²⁸ Gather unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to record against them.

²⁹ For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands.

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