

7/23/95

**Deuteronomy 32-34**

Moses has just prophesied that Israel will apostasy once they are in the land, so God has commanded Moses to write a song down and teach it to the children of Israel, that it may be a witness for God against them as they turn away from God. 31:19-21

God knew the inclination of their behavior that very day, before He brought them in the land.

\* What a contrast this Song of Moses is to the one recorded after the triumphant destruction of all the Egyptian army in the Red Sea. Ex. 15

\* Psalm 90 is also ascribed to Moses.

As we stated this morning in our study of the song Moses, it is written in a type of courtroom atmosphere.

**32:1-6 The opening statement of the prophet.**

**32:1-2** He calls heaven and earth to bear witness to the words to be spoken.

- 1) The entire creation bears witness as to who He is. vs. 1
- 2) The words he speaks are as beneficial to them as the dew and rain that falls on the tender plants and grass. vs. 2

- 32:3-4** He declares the greatness of God.
- 1) God allows men to be His mouth piece and proclaim His name. vs. 3
    - a) Jehovah means, Jehovah is salvation.
    - b) Jehovah is I am that I am, the becoming One.
  - 2) Moses commands their acknowledgment of God's greatness.
  - 3) Moses attests to God's nature. vs. 4
    - a) He is "The Rock", stable and dependable.
      - \* Six times this is declared, two times for false gods. vs. 15, 18, 30, 31, 37.
    - b) His works are perfect in every way.
    - c) He is just in all His ways, a God of truth without injustice.
    - d) He is righteous and upright.

- 32:5-6** He declares the wickedness of God's people.
- 1) They have corrupted their relationship to God. vs. 5
  - 2) They are foolish and unwise to behave in such a way before God. vs. 6

**32:7-18 The evidence presented by the prophet.**

**32:7-14** God's goodness and faithfulness in the past was to be remembered.

- 1) He had the fathers and elders as His witnesses. vs. 7
- 2) He chose them of all the people of the earth as His inheritance. vs. 8-9  
\* " You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you". Amos 3:1-2
- 3) He delivered them from Egypt and instructed them at Sinai. vs. 10  
\* They became the apple or pupil of His eye, tender and under His protection.
- 4) He cared for them as an mother eagle, gently weaning her young and teaching them to fly. vs. 11
- 5) He led them without the help of any other god. vs. 12
- 6) He provided for them. vs. 13-14

**32:15-18** Israel's treachery and unfaithfulness in the future was to be pondered.

- 1) They became rebellious and disrespectful as they had an abundance of provisions. vs. 15  
\* Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen

the hand of the poor and needy. Eze 16:49

- \* The word Jeshurun means upright or righteous one, in irony of her fallen state.
- 2) They provoked God to jealousy through idolatry, worshipping demons. vs. 16-17  
\* Ps. 106:37, 1Cor. 10:20
  - 3) They forgot God "The Rock" who fathered them. vs. 18

**32:19-25** **The sentence proclaimed by the prophet.**

- 32:19-20** God spurned them and hid His face from them because they provoked Him.
- 1) They were His sons and daughters. vs. 19
  - 2) They had become a perverse nation, children of no faith. vs. 20

**32:21** They provoked God to jealousy so they would be provoked by God to jealousy.

- 1) By a people without God.
- 2) By a foolish nation.
- a) The term jealousy relates to the marriage covenant as the wife of God.
- b) Paul quotes this passage for the call of the Gentiles at the rejection the Jews by God. Rom. 10:19

**32:22-25** God's anger would be poured out on them. vs. 22-25

- 1) It is a fearful anger reaching the lowest parts of Sheol. vs. 22
- 2) It is manifested in different ways. vs. 23-25
  - a) Disasters in their lives. vs. 23
  - b) Hunger, pestilence, destruction and animals would attack them. vs. 24
  - c) The sword from outside and terror to all from within. vs. 25

**32:26-33** **The vanity of the heathen and Israel revealed by the prophet.**

**32:26-27** If God would of destroyed them altogether, the heathen would of taken the credit.

- 1) God knows the thoughts of all men. vs. 26
- 2) God knows the pride of all men. vs. 27

**32:28-30** If God gave the Israelites victory they would of credited themselves. vs. 28-30

- 1) They are void of council and lack understanding. vs. 28
- 2) They lacked discretion as to future consequences. vs. 29
- \* God's desire for them. 5:29
- 3) They were too full of themselves. vs. 30

**32:31-33** If they only knew the death that all other gods bring.

- 1) They are not like "The Rock, God Jehovah". vs. 31
- 2) They are attractive but deadly. vs. 32-33
  - a) Corrupt as Sodom and Gomorrah. vs. 32
  - b) Deadly as poison and a venomous as a cobra. vs. 33

**32:34-43** **The judgment and mercy of God promised by the prophet.**

**32:34-35** God declares that He is sovereign as to His judgment.

- 1) It is a mystery sealed up in His treasures. vs. 34
- 2) It will be sudden and unexpected. vs. 35

**32:36-38** God will manifest mercy in judgment.

- 1) He will allow them to reach the end of themselves. vs. 36
- 2) He will ask them where their gods are? vs. 37
- 3) He will tell them to have their gods deliver them. vs. 38

\* For he shall have judgment without mercy, that has shown no mercy; and mercy rejoices against judgment. Ja. 2:13

**32:39-42** God takes an oath of Himself.

1) He is all powerful and in control. vs. 39 READ

2) He swears by Himself, since there is no greater. vs. 40

\* Heb. 6:16-17

3) He can not be stopped once He decides to judge His enemies. vs. 41-42

a) It is His hand. vs. 41

b) It is His sword. vs. 42

**32:43** God will punish the enemies of God's people.

1) The Gentiles are to rejoice with the people of Israel as He avenges His servants. vs. 43a-c

\* Paul quotes this in Romans. Rom. 15:10

2) The land also and the people of Israel will be atoned. vs. 43d

**32:44-47** The closing exhortation to obey delivered by the prophet.

**32:44** Moses and Joshua are seen as one in the teaching of the song.

1) Moses spoke the words.

2) Joshua was a witness to the words.

**32:45-46** Moses points to the key issue.

1) He commands them to set their heart on all the words spoken. vs. 46a-b

\* 5:29

2) He commands them regarding their duty to pass down their faith to their children to be careful to observe all the words. vs. 46c-d

\* 6:6-9, 20-25

**32:47** Moses proclaims the benefits of obedience.

1) Obedience to all the word is not futile, vain or a worthless thing. vs. 47a

2) The word is your life. vs. 47b

3) The word would prolong their days in the land. vs. 47c

**32:48-52** God tells Moses of his death.

**32:48-49** Nebo is about 8 miles east of the Jordan River as it comes in to the Dead Sea.

**32:50** Aaron likewise died.

**32:51-52** Moses misrepresented the Lord. Num. 20:11-13

**33:1-5** Introduction to Israel's final blessing on Israel.

\* The proclamation of Jacob to his sons is an interesting comparison with Moses' last blessings.

1. Jacob viewed their personal history from human failure.
2. Moses views the tribes from their covenant relationship.

\* Simeon is excluded!

**33:1** The time is just before Moses' death.

**33:2** He describes the covenant at Sinai.

\* The second coming is an interesting likeness. Rev. 19:11-16

**33:3-5** The details

- 1) God loves the people. vs. 3, Amos 3:1-2
- 2) Moses was the mediator. vs. 4
- 3) God was king not Moses. vs. 5

**33:6-7** **Ruben**

**33:6** Ruben had defiled his father's bed by going into his concubine and forfeited his inheritance, so the preservation of Ruben proclaimed. Gen. 49:3

**33:8-11** **Levi**

**33:8** Thummim and Urim means perfections and lights.

1) It was the means by which the High Priest determined the mind of God and here they are used synonymously with the priest and their office. Ex. 28:30

2) the reference to the holy one has to be God whom they tested at both Massah and Meribah. Ex. 17:1-7, Num. 20:1-13, Deut. 6:16

**33:9** It is believed that this refers to the occasion at Sinai where the priests were faithful to God over their family and went among their own to slay them.

**33:10** Their priestly duty is described.

- 1) To teach the law.
- 2) To offer up prayer, symbolic of incense.
- 3) To dedicate themselves to the altar of God where atonement was made.

**33:11** The petition for the Levites is three-fold.

- 1) To bless their substance.
- 2) To receive their offerings.
- 3) To avenge their enemies.

**33:12** **Benjamin**

The son of Rachel is called beloved of the Lord.

- 1) He shall dwell in safety all day long by God.
- 2) His safety is pictured as dwelling between God's shoulders.

**33:13-17 Joseph is the longest of the blessings.**

**33:13-16** Material blessings of every kind are declared being identified as the one who was separated from his brothers by their betrayal.

**33:17** He would be powerful and mighty through his two sons, Ehraim and Manasseh.

**33:18-19 Zebulun and Issachar**

**33:18** They would rejoice in their expeditions and in their dwellings as they experienced abundance.

**33:19** The mountain and sea area would be the source of their prosperity.

**33:20-21 Gad**

**33:20-21** Gad dwelt in the trans-Jordan as they were cattlemen.

**33:22 Dan****33:23 Naphtali**

**33:23** Two things.

1) They would be favored of the Lord.

2) They would possess the west and the south.

**33:24-25 Asher**

**33:24** 1) They would be blessed with olive oil.

**33:25** 2) They would be blessed with iron and bronze.

3) Their strength would be as the number of their days.

**33:26-29 The source of their blessings**

**33:26** God is their God who runs to their help.  
\* Jeshurun means the right one or righteous referring to Israel.

**33:27** God is their protection.

**33:28** Only in God's dependence will Jacob have hope.

**33:29** God had brought Israel to a place of privilege.

**34:1-4 Moses views the land**

**34:1-3** **The man Moses views the land from Mount Nebo at the peak of Pisgah.**

\* Moes did enter the land by a different means and a separate time, at the transfiguration of Jesus on the mount. Matt. 17

### **34:5-8      The death of Moses**

**34:5** Moses died as the Lord said in the land of Moab and he is called the servant, what a lesson for each of us.

**34:6** The Lord buried Moses opposite Beth Peor.

\* Jude tells us that Michael contended with Satan over the body of Moses but did not bring any railing accusation, instead he said the Lord rebuke you. Jude 9

**34:7** The age of Moses was 120 year.

- 1) His eye was not dim meaning weak, he did not need glasses.
- 2) His natural vigor was not diminished by his years.

**34:8** They mourned Moses for thirty days in the plain of Moab.

### **34:9-12      The succession of Moses**

**34:9** The man Joshua.

- 1) Joshua was full of the spirit of wisdom to lead the people by the laying of hands of Moses.

2) Joshua was heeded him as the Lord commanded.

### **34:10-12      The man Moses.**

1) Moses was a unique prophet like no other.

2) The Lord knew him face to face.

3) The signs and wonders before Pharaoh and his servants in the land of Egypt.

4) The mighty power and great terror before all Israel.

\* Moses was leader, lawgiver and prophet to Israel!