



"What Will Be Said At Your Funeral"

Pastor Jason West | November 12, 2023

Shiloh Community Church

James 4:14 "yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes."

Psalms 90:12 "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."

I. Moses _____ God

Deuteronomy 31:30 "Then Moses spoke the words of this song until they were finished, in the ears of all the assembly of Israel"

• The Song of Moses

Deuteronomy 32:3 "For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God!"

Deuteronomy 32:4 "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."

II. Moses Was a _____ Saved By Grace

(Deuteronomy 32:48-52)

Numbers 20:7-8 "and the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 'Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle.'"

Numbers 20:10-11 "Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, 'Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?' And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock."

Numbers 20:12-13 "And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.' These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the Lord, and through them he showed himself holy."

1 Corinthians 4:6 "I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another."

Psalms 106:32-33 "They angered him at the waters of Meribah, and it went ill with Moses on their account, for they made his spirit bitter, and he spoke rashly with his lips."

James 1:20 "for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

III. Moses _____ Others

Deuteronomy 33:1 "This is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the people of Israel before his death."

IV. Moses Fulfilled the _____ God Had For Him

(Deuteronomy 34:1-4)

V. Moses Spent Time _____ With Lord

Deuteronomy 34:5-6 "So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day."

Jude 1:9 "But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you.'"

Deuteronomy 34:7 "Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated."

Deuteronomy 34:8 "And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended."

VI. God's Work Through Moses' Work Will Move _____

Deuteronomy 34:9 "And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses."

VII. Well Done Thou Good and Faithful Servant

A. He Spoke the _____ of God

Deuteronomy 34:10a "And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses"

B. He _____ the Lord

Deuteronomy 34:10b "whom the Lord knew face to face"

C. God Worked Mightily Through Him

Deuteronomy 34:11-12 "none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel."

• **Chazak, Chazak, V'nitchazeik: "Be strong, be strong, and encourage one another"**



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1. Familiarize Yourself With the Passage

- a. Read Deuteronomy 34
- b. Read the context around the narrative (Deuteronomy 32-34)
- c. Note repetition of similar situations, content, and progression of ideas

2. Literary Context

a. Literary Context: The death of Moses stands as the last description in the Pentateuch (Genesis-Deuteronomy). It was common towards the end of one's life to speak a blessing on the people they were most close to such as children (Genesis 49). In this case, Deuteronomy 33 describes the various blessings Moses gave to the 12 tribes of Israel. The blessings carry a military tone all throughout emphasizing God's approval and presence as they take possession of the promised land under Joshua's command.¹ The blessing is essential because it signifies to Israel that God is still their king and that He will crush their enemies and give them the land he promised them (33:5, 7, 11, 13-16). This will give Joshua assurance to invade the land of Canaan (described in the next book), knowing victory against all of the superior armies in the land is certain.

b. Biblical/Cultural/Historical Context: The length of Moses' life (120 years) could very well be due to the amount of time he spent with God "face to face." Some ancient traditions outside of Israel believed that the gods' faces were "radiant and life-giving" (a Samsiluna inscription from 1749 to 1712 B.C., the grandson of Hammurabi).² As Moses spent continual time with God seeing the unique glory of God (face to face), his life was continually renewed and he gained strength to be Israel's leader for 40 years. There could be a correlation where spending time with God and seeing His glory in the Scriptures can invigorate our lives to live for Christ and His gospel.

3. Questions about the Passage

- a. What strikes you about Deuteronomy 32:47? (A similar passage can be found in John 6:35 and Matthew 4:3-4)
- b. Notice the reason that Moses' disobedience was so serious, "because you did not treat me as holy." What does God mean by this and what does this tell you about God's attitude toward disobedience?
- c. What observations do you see in the blessings to the 12 tribes of Israel (Deuteronomy 33)?

- d. What is significant about Moses' physical description in comparison to his age (Deuteronomy 34:7)? Does this description surprise you or not? (Note Deuteronomy 34:10 and Exodus 34:29-30).
- e. Moses and the Israelites of the previous generation could not enter the promised land to rest because of their disobedience. How do Christians enter into rest (Hebrews 3:14; 4:3, 11, 14)?

4. From the Passage to Life

- a. Moses was a very important leader in the Israelite history. Are there any significant godly leaders in your life that have passed and how did they encourage your walk with Christ?
- b. When important faithful Christian leaders die in each generation, (Billy Graham, Timothy Keller, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Reformer Martin Luther, etc.) what hope does the next generation have to faithfully live out the Christian faith?
- c. Has anyone ever prayed or spoken a blessing over you and how did that impact you?
- d. How does the holiness of God help you obey him? Is it a motivation for your life? Why or why not (Note Moses' disobedience)?

¹ Peter C. Craigie, The Book of Deuteronomy, NICOT (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976), 391.

² John Walton, ed. Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009), 523.