

Show Me Your Glory

Lessons from the Life of Moses

Lesson 21

Deuteronomy 34

Day One: The Vision of Moses

Moses was denied entry into the Promised Land, but he was granted a personal look before his death on Mt. Nebo. His distinctiveness as God's servant and prophet would remain unequalled in succeeding generations.

Read Deuteronomy 32:48–52 and 34:1–8.

The Promised Land was more than mere territory; it was the fulfillment of the promise that God had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob saying, "*I will give it to your descendants.*" Following God's instructions for one last time, Moses climbed Mt. Nebo from the plains of Moab where the tent city of the Israelites was located. He ascended all the way to the top of Pisgah and from there he viewed *all the land*, the sight of it no doubt bittersweet to him. He was a faithful servant to lead God's people to the border of their inheritance, what seemed to be impossible to them at one point. Because Moses did not sanctify the Lord at Kadesh in what he said and did, his disobedience would bar him from sharing in their blessing (Numbers 20).

Look closer . . .

A look back at Deuteronomy 3:23–28 reveals that Moses repeatedly asked the Lord to reconsider, but that God refused his request. As you read through this passage, contrast the earnestness of Moses' plea (vv. 24–25) with the firmness of God's reply (v. 26). What do you learn from this text about the accountability and responsibility God places on those who serve Him in leadership?

Warren Wiersbe said of Moses: "He knew that the greater the privileges, the greater the responsibilities. In what he did, Moses failed to glorify God, and for that sin he had to suffer chastening. God in His grace forgives our sins, but God in His government allows our sins to work out their sad consequences in our lives."

- ❖ Moses would indeed enter the land centuries later. When and where would this take place and what unique privilege was extended to Moses? (Take a moment to think through your answer.) See Matthew 17:1–3 and Luke 9:28–31.

1. After seeing all the land God promised to His people, Moses died on Mt. Nebo, but apparently he was not buried there. Who was present at his burial and what is the approximate location of his grave? Deuteronomy 34:5–6; see also Jude 9.
 - a. Why do *you* think God did not allow for anyone to know where Moses was buried?

2. What do you read about the physical condition of Moses at the time of his death?
v. 7

If you happened to be 120 years old today, do you think you would have the strength to climb unassisted to the top of a 4,500 ft. mountain? Moses did and he didn't need glasses to see or crutches to get there, "*His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.*" He lived every day to the fullest and kept pressing on until his work was finished and God called him home! Moses' last minutes on earth were spent alone with God, in close fellowship with Him, and God took care of the details of Moses' burial.

3. How long did the children of Israel mourn his death? v. 8

The customary period for mourning a loved one was seven days (Genesis 50:10), but the Israelites mourned for an entire month! This man against whom they repeatedly complained and on numerous occasions wanted to stone to death, they mourned because they loved him.

4. Sometimes it is only in death that we clearly see the impact one life can make. How does God feel when one of His own dies? Psalm 116:15

You can be assured that God has a work for you to do on earth and until that work is done, you have only to keep your eyes fixed on Him and press onward!

5. Personal: God alone knows the moment He will call you home. Write out the verses below, taking to heart what the Lord wants to say to you today.
 - a. Psalm 139:16

 - b. Psalm 31:14–15a

Heartbeat . . . "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9 NIV

Day Two:

Waiting in the Wings

Moses had asked two things regarding his successor: (1) He would be a man of God's own choosing; and (2) He would have a *shepherd's heart*. Since God is the only one who can look inside the human heart, it is best to trust Him to divinely call those who are to lead His people.

God told Moses to "*Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him . . . and you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient*" (Numbers 27:18, 20). Here in Deuteronomy 34:9 it says, "*Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him, so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.*" The baton of leadership had been passed; the work was now in the hands of Joshua. It would be his role to see that Israel did everything that the Lord had commanded Moses.

Selah . . .

Are you looking for a *Joshua*—someone who is God's choice—to follow? If so, will you commit to:

- Pray for the individual God will call to fill that leadership position.
- Pray for that person to be qualified: *filled with the Holy Spirit!*
- Pray for him/her to be supported by God's people.
- Pray for divine protection and provision for them as they step out in faith.

If you aren't looking for a Joshua to follow, could *you* perhaps be the answer to someone else's prayers? Have you been asked to consider a leadership position in your Bible study or church? Is it outside your comfort zone? Do you feel inadequate? Don't be quick with your answer . . . think it over and pray it through! Consider the following . . .

- If God is calling you as His *Joshua*, the Word of God is where you need to stay.
 - Remember that He is sovereign and He has everything under His control.
 - When God calls, He enables; when He provides, the leader succeeds!
- ❖ Are *you* waiting in the wings right now? What is God asking of you? Please record your thoughts.

The reason for Israel's success and the guarantee for her future did not rest with Moses, but with God. When God *removes* by His choice, He *replaces* with His choice and His people need not fret about their fate. The one He appoints He also approves. He is faithful to sustain His purpose and prepare His servant to carry on.

How do the following verses encourage you in your current situation? Personalize them in your own words.

a. Philippians 4:6–7

b. Proverbs 3:5–6

c. Luke 11:9–10

d. Ephesians 5:15–18

e. Hebrews 12:25–29

Whatever God is asking of you, let Him have His way . . . in His time . . . for His glory—that means everything, including your plans, your desires, your resources, and your future! Commit your way to Him and He will bring it to pass.

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Three:

A Look Back

Earlier this year you embarked on a remarkable journey, one of personal discovery about yourself and, more importantly, about the God you worship and serve. It has become a journey of transformation. Our theme has also been our prayer: *"Lord, show me Your glory!"* Your commitment to seriously study God's Word has stimulated your growth in the Lord and brought about His increased likeness in your life.

Today as you close out this season of study (and as you begin to anticipate the next), take some time to *look back* and see for yourself just how far you've come. Pull out each of your previous lessons and recall what you gleaned about who God is; when and how He revealed Himself to you; how very much He loves you; and what He's done on *your* behalf. When you have finished your review, write your responses to the questions below. May the seeds of truth God implanted in your heart continue to take root and grow strong, bearing fruit in His name and for His glory!

1. What about Moses the man made a lasting impression on you?
2. Name 1 life-lesson you will take with you from your study on the life of Moses.
3. What step of obedience will you take in response to what you learned this year?
4. What fruit of the Spirit has become evident in your life?
5. What *crossroad* of decision did you reach this year; what choice did you make?
6. What would you like *your* legacy to be?

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

2 Corinthians 3:18

Notes