

October 27, 2013
Deuteronomy 31-34
“The Songs of Moses”
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As we bring our studies in the book of Deuteronomy to a close, we see, in chapter 34, the life of Moses is also coming to a close.¹ There’s no doubt that Moses was an extraordinary man, because the Bible tells us Moses was: a friend of God²; a man of God³; a servant of God⁴; a prophet of God⁵; and he was “*more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.*”⁶ We also learn in [Hebrews 11:24-26](#),⁷ that Moses is listed among those in what many have called the “Hall of Faith.”

As much as we can imagine he would have loved to feel the soil between his toes, and sample the gapes from the Valley of Eschol, these things weren’t to be, because he did not cross the Jordan to enter in. The reward he was looking forward to was heaven; it wasn’t the Promised Land of Israel. At the age of 120, he would climb to the top of Mt. Nebo, where God would show him the Promised Land from a distance; and then God took him to heaven and buried his body. Before he departed this world, Moses handed the reigns over to his protégé, Joshua.⁸ The last thing God asked Moses to do was write a song for the people of Israel,⁹ because God knew Moses’ song would help

¹ Moses died at the age of 120.

² [Exodus 33:11](#)

³ [Deuteronomy 33:1](#)

⁴ [Deuteronomy 34:5](#)

⁵ [Deuteronomy 34:10](#)

⁶ [Numbers 12:3](#)

⁷ [Hebrews 11:24-26](#) - “By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.”

⁸ All of these details are recorded in [Deuteronomy 34](#).

⁹ [Deuteronomy 31:19-22](#) - “Now write down for yourselves this song and teach it to the Israelites and have them sing it, so that it may be a witness for me against them. When I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, the land I promised on oath to their forefathers, and when they eat their fill and thrive, they will turn to other gods and worship them, rejecting me and breaking my covenant. And when many disasters and difficulties come upon 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

people to remember God's words. This song was not Moses' first, nor would it be his last, because the Bible records three songs Moses "recorded." In this study, we will learn more about how the songs of Moses and how they paint a very important picture!

Rejoicing About God

1. **Exodus 15:1-2** - *"Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: 'I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.' "*
 - a. This is the first song found in Scripture, and this is the first time the words, "song" and "sing" are found in the Bible.
 - b. Use this link to read the lyrics to a hymn written about God's triumph over the Egyptians.¹⁰

2. Moses' song is very exalting of God and very worshipful about whom God is, as well as being full of praise.
 - a. Examples of exaltation, worship and praise concerning God, include:
 - i. **Exodus 15:6** - *"majestic in power"*
 - ii. **Exodus 15:11** - *"majestic in holiness"*
 - iii. **Exodus 15:11** - *"awesome in glory"*
 - iv. **Exodus 15:11** - *"working wonders"*
 - v. **Exodus 15:13** - *"unfailing love" and "strength"*
 - vi. **Exodus 15:18** - *"reign for ever and ever"*

3. This is a song about rejoicing over the greatness of God, and his majesty, power, holiness, glory, love, strength, sovereignty, and his eternal reign.

4. **Psalms 48:1** - *"Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain."*

Rejection Of God

5. **Deuteronomy 31:20** - *"When I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, the land I promised on oath to their forefathers, and when they eat their fill and thrive, they will turn to other gods and worship them, rejecting me and breaking my covenant."*

bring them into the land I promised them on oath.' So Moses wrote down this song that day and taught it to the Israelites."

¹⁰ http://www.hymnary.org/text/i_will_sing_onto_the_lord_for_he_has_tri

6. When God gave Moses instructions about writing this song, he told Moses it would be a testimony against the Israelites that they had rejected God.
7. This song was prophetic at the time it was written, but it also told of a future time, because the people did in fact forget God.
 - a. They settled in homes they didn't build or furnish, they ate from vineyards they didn't plant, they lived in cities they didn't build, and, even though God gave them every possible provision and blessing, they became complacent and forgot God.
 - b. Examples of the conduct of the Israelites includes:
 - i. [Deuteronomy 32:5](#) - *"acted corruptly"*
 - ii. [Deuteronomy 32:5](#) - *"warped and crooked"* [twisted]
 - iii. [Deuteronomy 32:15](#) - *"grew fat"*
 - iv. [Deuteronomy 32:15](#) - *"kicked"* [rebelled like a stubborn mule]
 - v. [Deuteronomy 32:15](#) - *"abandoned God"*
 - vi. [Deuteronomy 32:15](#) - *"rejected the Rock"*
 - vii. [Deuteronomy 32:18](#) - *"deserted the Rock"*
 - viii. [Deuteronomy 32:18](#) - *"forgot God"*
8. The results of their rejection of God included punishment and consequences.
 - a. [Deuteronomy 32:23-27](#) - *"I will heap calamities upon them and spend my arrows against them. I will send wasting famine against them, consuming pestilence and deadly plague; I will send against them the fangs of wild beasts, the venom of vipers that glide in the dust. In the street the sword will make them childless; in their homes terror will reign. Young men and young women will perish, infants and gray-haired men. I said I would scatter them and blot out their memory from mankind, but I dreaded the taunt of the enemy, lest the adversary misunderstand and say, 'Our hand has triumphed; the Lord has not done all this.' "*
 - b. The interesting conclusion is that God said their rebellion and disobedience was so grievous to him that he wanted to scatter them and permanently wipe their memory away, except that the enemy would gloat and taunt and believe they had defeated the Israelites, so God didn't give his enemies that satisfaction.
 - c. The song ends by saying that God would take vengeance on those very enemies of Israel, and that he would bring atonement to the people!
 - i. [Deuteronomy 32:43](#) - *"Rejoice, O nations, with his people, for he will avenge the blood of his servants; he will take vengeance on his enemies and make atonement for his land and people."*

Redemption By God

9. **Revelation 15:1-4** - *“I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues – last, because with them God’s wrath is completed. And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: ‘Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.’ ”*
10. John’s vision of heaven includes a time when *“those who had been victorious”* were singing the song Moses wrote about Jesus, the Lamb, and those who would sing it were none other than those who would one day be martyred during the Tribulation period because of their faith in Christ.
- a. There will be seven years of famine, earthquakes, death, disease, meteor showers, and other cataclysmic natural disasters that God will bring upon the earth, against those who have rejected and forsaken him.
 - b. During this time the Antichrist will rise, along with a False Prophet who will perform false signs and wonders so as to deceive the people.
 - c. God will use all of this as one final and dramatic call for people to repent and turn to him that they might be saved, and the good news is that many will!
 - d. However, John saw those who put their faith in Jesus during the Tribulation period will refuse to worship the Antichrist or take his mark, and for these things they will be killed, martyred for their faith.
 - i. The martyred saints were *“victorious over his image”* (they did not worship the Beast).
 - ii. The martyred saints were *“victorious over the number of his name”* (they did not accept the mark of the Beast).
 - e. This is a song of complete vindication, and complete salvation for all who believe!

Conclusion

11. When you put all three songs together, you have a picture of the Gospel:
- a. Rejoicing – God is great!
 - i. He is great and holy, and perfect and loving in all his ways.
 - b. Rejection – Man is sinful!
 - i. Man rejected God, and because sin entered the human race, we have all sinned and must die as the penalty for our sin.

- c. Redemption – Jesus saves!
 - i. But God provided a way to be saved from sin, by faith and trust in his Son, Jesus, who died on a cross to redeem us from sin and death.
 - ii. For all who would believe, the Lord promises his forgiveness, an abundant life on earth, and an eternal home in heaven!
12. **Titus 2:14** – “[Jesus] gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own...”

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Allow the people in your group to share stories about memories they have of commercial jingles and the lasting impact jingles have. (Be prepared to jumpstart the discussion by having several examples ready, either by audio or be prepared to personally sing or whistle (The Andy Griffith Show) the song/tune.
 - a. Provide an overview of the study conducted by the University of California, Irvine, which found evidence that music enhances the memory of Alzheimer’s and dementia patients, and comment on the fact that studies have found that memory test scores improved when patients listened to classical music.¹¹
3. How strong is the correlation between music and memory in your life?
4. Spend time sharing examples of Sunday school songs you learned as a child.
5. How does the Lord use songs you hear on Christian radio to help you remember the truth of Scripture, etc.?
6. What are some of the ways the Lord might want you to exalt him, rejoice over his goodness, and praise him?
7. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: purpose in their heart to rejoice in the Lord and praise him for their salvation.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).

¹¹ <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/music-arts/boost-memory-and-learning-with-music/>