

Up From Slavery

A man / A people / A plan

THE REST OF THE STORY:
THE END OF THE BEGINNING
DEUTERONOMY 34:1-8

Deuteronomy 31

31 Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel: ² “I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. The LORD has said to me, ‘You shall not cross the Jordan.’ ³ The LORD your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the LORD said. ⁴ And the LORD will do to them what he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, whom he destroyed along with their land. ⁵ The LORD will deliver

Deuteronomy 31

them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Context

40 Years after Kadesh

An entire generation has passed off the scene.

Moses has endured insurrection and rebellion.

Cliff Notes

1. The reading of the Law

¹² Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the aliens living in your towns—so they can **listen** and **learn to fear** the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. ¹³ Their **children**, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

2. Rebellion Predicted (32:14-22)

3. The witness of the Law (32:24-29)

Cliff Notes

- The Song of Moses (33:1-43)

³⁶ The LORD will judge his people
and have compassion on his servants
when he sees their strength is gone
and no one is left, slave or free.

³⁷ He will say: “Now where are their gods,
the rock they took refuge in,

³⁸ the gods who ate the fat of their sacrifices
and drank the wine of their drink offerings?

Let them rise up to help you!

Let them give you shelter!

³⁹ “See now that I myself am He!

There is no god besides me.

I put to death and I bring to life,

I have wounded and I will heal,

and no one can deliver out of my hand.

1. God is sovereign

a) Supreme ruler

b) Possessing supreme or ultimate power

Deuteronomy 33

⁴⁸ On that same day the LORD told Moses, ⁴⁹ “Go up into the Abarim Range to Mount Nebo in Moab, across from Jericho, and view Canaan, the land I am giving the Israelites as their own possession. ⁵⁰ There on the mountain that you have climbed you will die and be gathered to your people, just as your brother Aaron died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people. ⁵¹ This is because both of you broke faith with me in the presence of the Israelites at the waters of Meribah Kadesh in the Desert of Zin and because you did not uphold my

holiness among the Israelites. ⁵² Therefore, you will see the land only from a distance; you will not enter the land I am giving to the people of Israel.”

34 Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, ² all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, ³ the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. ⁴ Then the LORD said to him, “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.”

WHY

2. God is holy

- “You broke faith with me. . . .”
- “You did not uphold my holiness among the Israelites.”

Numbers 20

⁶ Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. ⁷ The LORD said to Moses, ⁸ “Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.”

⁹ So Moses took the staff from the LORD’s presence, just as he commanded him. ¹⁰ He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, “Listen,

you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" ¹¹ Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

¹² But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

¹³ These were the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites quarreled with the LORD and where he showed himself holy among them.

WHY

2. God is holy

- “You broke faith with me”
- “You did not uphold my holiness among the Israelites.”
- “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites,”

Conclusion

⁵ And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. ⁶ He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. ⁷ Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. ⁸ The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

How does one “honor God as Holy?”

1. Know what God wants.
2. Do what God says.
3. Obey even when it may seem inconsequential.
4. To honor God as holy we need to be certain that all the glory goes to Him, not to us.

James 1

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

²⁶ If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

To Go . . .

- Is the holiness of God a viable construct in your life?
- How should an awareness that God is holy impact your day to day thoughts and activities?