

MOSES — SERVANT OF THE LORD

Text:

Deuteronomy 34:23: By Faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

“Moses the servant of the Lord” (Deuteronomy 34:5) — this was the honorable title which was given to one who chose to suffer afflictions. Moses was a man of great faith:

Hebrews 11:24-31:

²⁴ By Faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

²⁵ Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

²⁶ Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

²⁷ By Faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing Him Who [by Faith – Moses saw Christ] is invisible.

²⁸ Through Faith he kept the Passover, and the sprinkling of blood [of the lamb on the doorposts], lest He Who that destroyed the firstborn [in Egypt] should touch them.

²⁹ By Faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.



Moses the Servant waited upon God for directions as a servant waits on his master. He spent 40 days in the Presence of The Lord on Mount Sinai while God gave him what have become known as the 10 Commandments, along with detailed instructions for the building of the Tabernacle.

Moses is our teacher in the art of dying. Moses knew he must die.

Numbers 20:12: And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed Me not, to sanctify Me in the eyes of the Children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Three times in Deuteronomy it says **“the Lord was angry with me for your**

sakes.” It was not so much what Moses did personally which involved his judgment, but he suffered because of his identification with Israel. The Lord spared the people for his sake, so of necessity he in a measure must share in their sin of unbelief, and thereby be chastened for them and himself. God is not unjust in this. We must see that it is a type of the Law, and the Law never leads to grace. The Law may lead to the Promised Land, by Joshua — but Jesus must bring us in.

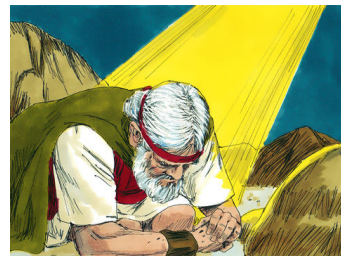
We must see that it is a type of the Law, and the Law never leads to grace.

As he lived with his people, so God caused him to die with them. The days of his youth are behind him; yet his eyes are not dim nor are his natural powers weakened. His mental and spiritual powers are greater and more developed by chastity and marvelous discipline, and are elevated to sublime communion with God. Moses does not rebel nor chaff by asking the Giver for the Privilege to see the land of Canaan

Deuteronomy 34:5: So Moses the servant of the Lord died in the land of Moab according to the Word of the Lord.

So time, places, and circumstances are arranged by God. Moses died when his work was done. So likewise David — who gathered materials for building the Temple — died without constructing it and without seeing his son Solomon construct it.

Moses had been through all the terrible wilderness with his people, and likewise had been afflicted in all their afflictions. After a life of self-denial without any luxuries, but only trials and loneliness, it was thus significant that he die alone, for so he had lived.



This burdened watcher over Israel must be glad his watch is over, having reached the time of release from bondage to be admitted into the glorious society of Heaven. Therefore, we won't grieve when the battle has been fought and the victory is won forever.

God would put none other burden on him (e.g., he had to fight for — but was not permitted to enter into — Canaan), and the way he died shows the abundant Grace of God. Moses does not sulk, but preaches his best sermon (90th Psalm), and encourages his successor. As a flower pouring out its perfume fades with the setting sun, so Moses sinks into sleep as the day passes away.

Psalm 90:1-17:

1 Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.

3 Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men.

4 For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

5 Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up.

6 In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

7 For we are consumed by Thine anger, and by thy wrath are we troubled.

8 Thou hast set our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance.

9 For all our days are passed away in Thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told.

10 The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

11 Who knoweth the power of Thine anger? even according to Thy fear, so is Thy wrath.

12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

13 Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent Thee concerning Thy servants.

14 O satisfy us early with Thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

15 Make us glad according to the days wherein Thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.

16 Let Thy work appear unto Thy servants, and Thy glory unto their children.

17 And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it.



His life was lived as a servant taking commands from God, and he dies taking this last command — that he must die according to the Word of the Lord. Moses dies with joy over his successor, his works follow him, and he dies with God with Whom he lived.

As Moses did get a glimpse of the “Promised Land”, so did Stephen get a glimpse of his Promised Land:

Acts 7:56: And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right Hand of God.



And the apostles on the Mount of Transfiguration received a glimpse of Moses talking with The Lord:

Matthew 17:1-3:



¹ And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,

² And [Jesus] was transfigured before them: and His Face did shine as the sun, and His Raiment was white as the light.

³ And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with Him.

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