

Church of God Sunday School

THE DEATH OF MOSES

Numbers 27:12-23; Deuteronomy 31:1 — 34:12

God used Moses to lead Israel out of Egyptian bondage and across the great Red Sea. Those were miraculous events that symbolize the complete delivery from sin that we can have.

Moses was feared and respected by the people of Israel. They knew he talked with God. He received God's laws for the people. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. But even Moses did not escape the law of sowing and reaping. God honors His Word, and He did not change it for Moses. Moses sinned in the desert of Zin. Because of his sin, Moses had to die before Israel crossed the Jordan River. God would not allow him to enter the Promised Land. (Aaron had already died sometime before that. See Numbers 20:24-29.)

Moses loved Israel, and he worried about what would happen to them after he died. Moses asked God to set a leader over Israel, so "that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd."

God honored Moses' request, saying: "Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; And set him before Eleazar [*el-ee-AY-zuhr*] the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient." (Joshua was one of the two spies who had brought a true report of Canaan, the Promised Land, forty years earlier.)

So Moses set Joshua before Eleazar the priest and all the people. He laid his hands on Joshua and charged him to be strong and to lead the people of God with courage.

Moses had many other things to say to the people

before he died. Moses had something to say to the priests and the elders. He told them to remind the people of God's Law. Moses said: "At the end of every seven years . . . in the feast of tabernacles . . . thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

"Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the

LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:

"And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it."

God told Moses that, sometime after his death, the people would forsake His covenant and the words Moses had said to them. The people would leave God's laws (this is called an apostasy) and do evil and provoke God by serving false gods (idols) that were made with their own hands. Because of that, many troubles would come to them.

The Lord told Moses to write those things in a book.

Moses did. He gave the book to the priests to put in the Ark of the Covenant. It was to be kept as a witness of God's words against the Israelites.

When Moses had done everything that God wanted him to do, he blessed the people and said goodbye to them. God told Moses that it was time for him to climb Mount Nebo.

Moses obeyed God; he climbed Mount Nebo. From there, Moses could view all of Canaan and behold its beauty. God showed him all the land of Gilead unto Dan. "And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost



sea, And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar."

The Lord said, "This is the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither." Moses had to die on Mount Nebo.

Moses was 120 years old. His sight and his natural strength were still good. But it was God's time for Moses to die, and so he died. The Lord buried him in a valley near Bethpeor (*beth-PEE-or*), in the land of Moab. No one knew exactly where. Why not? God did not want anyone to know. If the people had known,

they might have worshiped at Moses' grave, since he was such a great man of God. So, to this day, nobody knows where Moses was buried. It is still God's secret.

Moses had been Israel's leader for forty years. There was not any prophet that came after Moses who was like him. No other prophet was as close to God as Moses was, for God spoke with Moses "face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend" (Exodus 33:11). Also, Moses did more mighty acts of God than any other prophet. In the New Testament, we read that Moses was "faithful in all his house" (Hebrews 3:5).

Now, the leadership of the people would be up to the next man chosen by God, Joshua.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face."*

*—Deuteronomy 34:10*  
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Moses did not escape the law of sowing and reaping.

What did Moses do that prevented him from entering the Promised Land? _____

Moses disobeyed God and was punished.

How can disobedience get you in trouble today?



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