

“A Lesson Before Dying”
Deuteronomy 31:1-8
Leadership Transition from Moses to Joshua into the Promised Land
Unlocking the Old Testament Sermon Series
August 2, 2009

1 When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, *2* he said to them: "I am now one hundred twenty years old. I am no longer able to get about, and the Lord has told me, "You shall not cross over this Jordan.' *3* The Lord your God himself will cross over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua also will cross over before you, as the Lord promised. *4* The Lord will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them. *5* The Lord will give them over to you and you shall deal with them in full accord with the command that I have given to you. *6* Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you." *7* Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel: "Be strong and bold, for you are the one who will go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their ancestors to give them; and you will put them in possession of it. *8* It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

1. The Lord is our Deliverer – He will pave the way forward (vv. 2-3)

See also Deuteronomy 3:21-29; 32: 48-52

(Moses learns he will never physically enter the Promised Land)

2. Trusting in God’s direction, even if we do not totally understand... (vv. 7-8)

See also Numbers 27:12-23

(Moses commissions/charges Joshua as all the children of Israel take notice)

3. What are you living for and investing in, for God’s glory and others’ benefit, beyond your lifetime?

(Moses finishes life well)

One Lesson We Can Learn ~ God is True to His Word

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

1 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, **2** all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, **3** the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. **4 The Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, "I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there."**

5 Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord's command. **6** He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. **7** Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. **8** The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

9 Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. **10** Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. **11** He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, **12** and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.