

The Song of Moses (February 1406 BC)

Deuteronomy 31:24–32:52

Introduction

31:24 And then when Moses finished writing the words of this law on the scroll until they were complete,
 25 then Moses commanded the Levites carrying the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, saying,
 26 “Take the scroll of this law and put it at the side of the ark of the covenant of Yahweh your God, and it will be there as a witness against you.
 27 For I know your rebellion and your stiff neck *even now* while I *am* still alive with you today, rebelling against Yahweh, and how much more after my death.
 28 Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officials, so that I may speak in their ears these words, and *that* I may call as witness against them heaven and earth.
 29 For I know that after my death you will certainly act corruptly, and you will turn aside from the way that I have commanded you, and the disaster in the future days will befall you, because you will do evil in the eyes of Yahweh, provoking him with the work of your hands.”
 30 So Moses spoke into the ears of the assembly of Israel the words of this song until they were complete.

Invocation of Witnesses

32:1 “Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak,
 and let the earth hear the words of my mouth.
 2 May my teaching trickle like the dew,
 my words like rain showers on tender grass,
 and like spring showers on new growth.
 3 For I will proclaim the name of Yahweh;
 ascribe greatness to our God!

A Faithful God and a Faithless People

4 The Rock, his work *is* perfect,
 for all his ways *are* just;
he is a faithful God, and without injustice;
 righteous and upright *is* he. [[Rev 15:3](#)]
 5 They *have* behaved corruptly toward him;
they are not his children; *this is* their flaw,
 a generation crooked and perverse.
 6 *Like* this do you treat Yahweh,
 foolish and unwise people?
Has he not, your father, created you?
 He made you, and he established you.

Remember Yahweh’s Care for His Covenantal Nation

7 Remember *the* old days, the years long past;
 ask your father, and he will inform you,
 your elders and they will tell you.
 8 When the Most High apportioned *the* nations,
 at his dividing *up* of the sons of humankind,
 he fixed the boundaries of *the* peoples,
 according to the number of the children of Israel.
 9 For Yahweh’s portion *was* his people,
 Jacob the share of his inheritance.
 10 He found him in a desert land,
 and in a howling, desert wasteland;
 he encircled him, he cared for him,
 he protected him like the apple of his eye. [cf. [Zech 2:8](#); [Ps 17:8](#)]
 11 As an eagle stirs up its nest,
 hovers over its young,
 spreads out its wings, takes them,
 carries them on its pinions,
 12 *so* Yahweh alone guided him,
 and there was no foreign god accompanying him.
 13 And he set him on the high places of *the* land,

and he fed *him* the crops of *the* field,
and he nursed him with honey from crags,
and *with* oil from flinty rock,
14 *With* curds from *the* herd,
and *with* milk from *the* flock,
with *the* fat of young rams,
and rams, the offspring of Bashan,
and with goats *along* with the finest kernels of wheat,
and *from* the blood of grapes you drank fermented wine.

Israel's Prosperity and Rebellion

- 15 And Jeshurun grew fat, and he kicked;
you grew fat, you bloated, and you became obstinate;
and he abandoned God, his maker,
and he scoffed *at* the rock of his salvation.
16 They made him jealous with strange *gods*;
with detestable things they provoked him.
17 They sacrificed to the demons, not God,
to gods whom they had not known,
new *gods who* came from recent times;
their ancestors had not known them.
18 *The* rock who bore you, you neglected,
and you forgot God, *the one* giving you birth.

Yahweh's Determination to Judge Israel

- 19 Then Yahweh saw, and he spurned *them*,
because of the provocation of his sons and his daughters.
20 So he said, 'I will hide my face from them;
I will see what *will be* their end,
for they *are* a generation of perversity,
children in whom there is no faithfulness.
21 They annoyed me with *what is* not a god;
they provoked me with their idols.
So I will make them jealous with *those* not a people,
with a foolish nation I will provoke them. [[Rom 10:19](#)]
22 For a fire was kindled by my anger,
and it burned up to the depths of Sheol,
and it devoured *the* earth and its produce,
and it set afire the foundation of *the* mountains.
23 I will heap disasters upon them;
my arrows I will spend on them.
24 *They will become* weakened by famine,
and consumed by plague and bitter pestilence;
and the teeth of wild animals I will send against them,
with *the* poison of *the* creeping *things* in *the* dust;
25 From outside *her* *boundaries* the sword will make *her* childless,
and from inside, terror;
both *for the* young man *and* also the young woman,
the infant *along with* the gray-headed man.

Yahweh Will Also Judge the Nations He Uses to Judge Israel

- 26 I thought, "I will wipe them out;
I will make people forget they ever existed."
27 If I had not feared a provocation of *the* enemy,
lest their foes might misunderstand,
lest they should say, "Our hand is triumphant,
and Yahweh *did* not do all this."
28 For they are a nation void of sense,
and there is not *any* understanding in them.

- 29 If only they were wise, they would understand this;
they would discern for themselves their end.
- 30 How could one chase a thousand
and two could cause a myriad to flee,
if their Rock had not sold them,
and Yahweh had *not* given them up?
- 31 For the fact of the matter is,
their rock *is* not like our Rock,
and our enemies recognize *this*.
- 32 For their vine *is* from the vine of Sodom,
and from the terraces of Gomorrah;
their grapes *are* grapes of poison;
their clusters are bitter.
- 33 Their wine *is* the poison of snakes,
and *the* deadly poison of horned vipers.
- 34 ‘*Is* not this stored up with me,
sealed in my treasures?’
- 35 Vengeance belongs to me and *also* recompense, [[Rom 12:19](#); [Heb 10:30](#)]
for at the time their foot slips,
because the day of their disaster *is* near,
and fate comes quickly for them.’

Vindication of Israel and Yahweh

- 36 For Yahweh will judge *on behalf of* his people, [[Heb 10:30](#)]
and concerning his servants;
he will change his mind when he sees that *their* power has disappeared,
and *there is* no one left, confined or free.
- 37 And he will say, ‘Where *are* their gods,
their rock in whom they took refuge?’
- 38 Who ate the fat of their sacrifices
and drank the wine of their libations?
Let them rise *up*, and let them help you;
Let them be to you a refuge.
- 39 See, now, that I, *even I am* he,
and there is not a god besides me;
I put to death and I give life;
I wound and I heal;
there is not *one* who delivers from my hand!
- 40 For *indeed* I lift up my hand to heaven,
And I promise as I live forever,
41 When I sharpen my flashing sword,
and my hand takes hold *of it* in judgment,
I will take reprisals against my foes,
and my haters I will repay.
- 42 I will make my arrows drunk with blood,
and my sword shall devour flesh with the blood of the slain,
and captives from the heads of the leaders of *the* enemy.’
- 43 [“*Rejoice with him, you heavens,
and let all of God’s angels worship him.*”] [[Heb 1:6](#)] (NLT/LXX)
Call for songs of joy, O nations, *concerning* his people, [[Rom 15:10](#)]
for the blood of his servants he will avenge,
and he will take reprisals against his foes,
and he will make atonement *for* his land, his people.”

Moses’ Last Warning

- 44 And Moses came, and he spoke all the words of this song in the ears of the people; *that is*, he and Joshua the son of Nun.
- 45 And when Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel,
- 46 then he said to them, “Take to heart all the words that I *am* admonishing *against* you today *concerning* which you should instruct them *with respect to* your children so that they will observe diligently all the words of this law,

47 for it *is* not a trifling matter among you, but it *is* your life, and through this word you will live long in the land that you *are about* to cross the Jordan *to get* there to take possession of it.”

Yahweh Tells Moses to Prepare for Death

48 And Yahweh said to Moses on exactly this day, saying,

49 “Go up to this mountain of the Abarim *range*, Mount Nebo, which *is* opposite Jericho, and see the land of Canaan that I *am* giving to the Israelites as *a* possession.

50 You shall die on that mountain that you *are* about to go up there, and *you will* be gathered to your people, *just* as your brother Aaron died on Mount Hor and he was gathered to his people,

51 because *of the fact* that you broke faith with me in the midst of Israel at the waters of Meribah Kadesh, *in* the desert of Zin, because you did not treat me as holy in the midst of the Israelites.

52 Yes, from afar you may view the land, but there you shall not enter there, *that is*, into the land that I *am* giving to the Israelites.”

The Blessing of Moses (February 1406 BC)

Deuteronomy 33

Introduction and Historical Review

33:1 Now this *is* the blessing *with* which Moses, the man of God, blessed the Israelites before his death.

2 Then he said,

“Yahweh came from Sinai,
and he dawned upon them from Seir;
he shone forth from Mount Paran,
and he came with myriads of holy ones, [cf. [Acts 7:53](#); [Gal. 3:19](#); [Heb. 2:2](#)]
at his right hand a fiery law for them.

3 Moreover, he loves his people,
all the holy ones *were* in your hand,
and they bowed down to your feet,
each one accepted directions from you.

4 A law Moses instructed for us,
as a possession *for* the assembly of Jacob.

5 And *then* a king arose in Jeshurun,
at the gathering of the leaders of *the* people,
united were the tribes of Israel.

Reuben

6 “May Reuben live, and may he not die,
and let his number not be few.”

Judah

7 And he said this of Judah,
“Hear, O Yahweh, the voice of Judah,
and bring him to his people;
his own hands strive for him,
and may you be a help against his foes.”

Levi

8 And of Levi he said,
“Your Thummim and your Urim
are for your faithful one,
whom you tested at Massah;
you contended *with* him
at the waters of Meribah.

9 The *one* saying of his father and of his mother,
‘I have not regarded them,’
and his brothers he *did* not acknowledge,
and his children *he did* not know,
but *rather* they observed your word,
and your covenant they kept.

- 10 They taught your regulations to Jacob,
and your law to Israel;
they placed incense smoke before you,
and whole burnt offerings on your altar.
- 11 Bless, O Yahweh, his substance,
and with the work of his hands you must be pleased;
smite the loins of those who attack him,
and those hating him, so that they cannot arise.”

Benjamin

- 12 Of Benjamin he said,
“The beloved of Yahweh dwells securely,
the Most High shields *all* around him,
all the day,
and between his shoulders he dwells.”

Joseph—Ephraim and Manasseh

- 13 And of Joseph he said,
“Blessed by Yahweh *is* his land,
with the choice things of heaven,
with dew, and with the deep lying down beneath,
14 and with *the* choice things of *the* fruits of *the* sun,
and with the choice things of *the* yield of *the* seasons,
15 and with the finest things of *the* ancient mountains,
and with *the* choice things of *the* eternal hills,
16 and with the choice things of *the* earth and its fullness,
and the favor of *the one* who dwelt in *the* bush.
Let them come to the head of Joseph,
and to the crown of the prince among his brothers.
- 17 As the firstborn of his ox, majesty belongs to him,
and his horns *are the* horns of a wild ox;
with them he drives people together,
and they *are* the myriads of Ephraim,
and they *are* the thousands of Manasseh.”

Zebulun and Issachar

- 18 And of Zebulun he said,
“Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out,
and *rejoice*, Issachar, in your tents;
19 They summon people *to the* mountains;
there they sacrifice the sacrifices of righteousness,
because the affluence of *the* seas they suck *out*,
and the most hidden treasures of the sand.”

Gad

- 20 And of Gad he said,
“Blessed *be* the one who enlarges Gad;
like a lion he dwells,
and he tears an arm as well as a scalp.
- 21 And he selected *the* best *part* for himself,
for there *the* portion of a ruler *is* included,
and he came *with the* heads of *the* people;
he did the righteousness of Yahweh,
and his regulations for Israel.”

Dan

- 22 And of Dan he said,
“Dan *is* a cub of *a* lion;
he leaps from Bashan.”

Naphtali

23 And of Naphtali, he said,
 “Oh, Naphtali, sated of favor,
 and full of the blessing of Yahweh;
 take possession of *the* lake,
 and *the land to the south.*”

Asher

24 And of Asher he said,
 “Blessed more than sons *is* Asher;
 may he be the favorite of his brothers,
 dipping his feet in the oil.
 25 Your bars *are* iron and bronze,
 and as your days, *so is* your strength.”

Conclusion—General Praise and Blessing

26 “There is no *one* like God, O, Jeshurun,
 who rides *through* the heavens to your help,
 and with his majesty *through the* skies.
 27 The God of ancient time *is* a hiding place,
 and underneath *are the* arms of eternity,
 and he drove out from before you your enemy,
 and he said, ‘Destroy *them!*’
 28 So Israel dwells alone *and* carefree,
 the spring of Jacob in a land of grain and wine;
 his heavens even drip dew.
 29 Blessed *are* you, O Israel.
 Who is like you, a people who *is* saved by Yahweh,
 the shield of your help,
 and who *is* the sword of your triumph,
 and your enemies, they shall fawn before you,
 and you shall tread on their backs.”

The Death of Moses (February 1406 BC)

Deuteronomy 34:1–7

1 Then Moses went up from the desert plateau of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and Yahweh showed him all of the land, Gilead *all the way* up to Dan,
 2 and all of Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh and all of the land of Judah, up to the western sea,
 3 and the Negev and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palms, *on* up to Zoar.
 4 And Yahweh said to him, “This *is* the land that I swore to Abraham to Isaac and to Jacob, saying, ‘To your offspring I will give it.’ I have let you see *it* with your eyes, but you shall not cross into it.”
 5 Then Moses, the servant of Yahweh, died there in the land of Moab according to the command of Yahweh.
 6 And he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth Peor. But until this day no one knows his burial site. [[Jude 1:9](#)]
 7 Now Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died; his sight was not impaired and his vigor had not abated.

Israel Mourns Moses’ Death (Adar [March] 1406 BC)

Deuteronomy 34:8–12

8 And the Israelites wept *concerning* Moses thirty days; *finally* the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were completed.
 9 Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had placed his hands on him, and the Israelites listened to him, and they did as Yahweh had commanded Moses.
 10 And not again has a prophet arisen in Israel like Moses, whom Yahweh knew face to face,
 11 as far as all the signs and the wonders Yahweh sent him to do in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all of his servants and against all of his land,
 12 and as far as all of the mighty deeds and as far as the great awesome wonders Moses did before the eyes of all Israel.