

The Song of Moses (February 1406 BC)

Deuteronomy 31:24–32:52

Introduction

31:24 It came about, when Moses finished writing the words of this law in a book until they were complete,
 25 that Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying,
 26 “Take this book of the law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may remain there as a witness against you.
 27 For I know your rebellion and your stubbornness; behold, while I am still alive with you today, you have been rebellious against the LORD; how much more, then, after my death?
 28 Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officers, that I may speak these words in their hearing and call the heavens and the earth to witness against them.
 29 For I know that after my death you will act corruptly and turn from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days, for you will do that which is evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him to anger with the work of your hands.”
 30 Then Moses spoke in the hearing of all the assembly of Israel the words of this song, until they were complete:

Invocation of Witnesses

32:1 “Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak;
 And let the earth hear the words of my mouth.
 2 “Let my teaching drop as the rain,
 My speech distill as the dew,
 As the droplets on the fresh grass
 And as the showers on the herb.
 3 “For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
 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;
 A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
 Righteous and upright is He. [[Rev 15:3](#)]
 5 “They have acted corruptly toward Him,
They are not His children, because of their defect;
But are a perverse and crooked generation.
 6 “Do you thus repay the LORD,
 O foolish and unwise people?
 Is not He your Father who has bought you?
 He has made you and established you.

Remember Yahweh’s Care for His Covenantal Nation

7 “Remember the days of old,
 Consider the years of all generations.
 Ask your father, and he will inform you,
 Your elders, and they will tell you.
 8 “When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,
 When He separated the sons of man,
 He set the boundaries of the peoples
 According to the number of the sons of Israel.
 9 “For the LORD’s portion is His people;
 Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance.
 10 “He found him in a desert land,
 And in the howling waste of a wilderness;
 He encircled him, He cared for him,
 He guarded him as the pupil of His eye. [cf. [Zech 2:8](#); [Ps 17:8](#)]
 11 “Like an eagle that stirs up its nest,
 That hovers over its young,
 He spread His wings and caught them,
 He carried them on His pinions.
 12 “The LORD alone guided him,

And there was no foreign god with him.

- 13 “He made him ride on the high places of the earth,
And he ate the produce of the field;
And He made him suck honey from the rock,
And oil from the flinty rock,
14 Curds of cows, and milk of the flock,
With fat of lambs,
And rams, the breed of Bashan, and goats,
With the finest of the wheat—
And of the blood of grapes you drank wine.

Israel’s Prosperity and Rebellion

- 15 “But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked—
You are grown fat, thick, and sleek—
Then he forsook God who made him,
And scorned the Rock of his salvation.
16 “They made Him jealous with strange *gods*;
With abominations they provoked Him to anger.
17 “They sacrificed to demons who were not God,
To gods whom they have not known,
New *gods* who came lately,
Whom your fathers did not dread.
18 “You neglected the Rock who begot you,
And forgot the God who gave you birth.

Yahweh’s Determination to Judge Israel

- 19 “The LORD saw *this*, and spurned *them*
Because of the provocation of His sons and daughters.
20 “Then He said, ‘I will hide My face from them,
I will see what their end *shall be*;
For they are a perverse generation,
Sons in whom is no faithfulness.
21 ‘They have made Me jealous with *what* is not God;
They have provoked Me to anger with their idols.
So I will make them jealous with *those who* are not a people;
I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation, [[Rom 10:19](#)]
22 For a fire is kindled in My anger,
And burns to the lowest part of Sheol,
And consumes the earth with its yield,
And sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.
23 ‘I will heap misfortunes on them;
I will use My arrows on them.
24 ‘*They will be* wasted by famine, and consumed by plague
And bitter destruction;
And the teeth of beasts I will send upon them,
With the venom of crawling things of the dust.
25 ‘Outside the sword will bereave,
And inside terror—
Both young man and virgin,
The nursling with the man of gray hair.

Yahweh Will Also Judge the Nations He Uses to Judge Israel

- 26 ‘I would have said, “I will cut them to pieces,
I will remove the memory of them from men,”
27 Had I not feared the provocation by the enemy,
That their adversaries would misjudge,
That they would say, “Our hand is triumphant,
And the LORD has not done all this.”

- 28 “For they are a nation lacking in counsel,
And there is no understanding in them.
- 29 “Would that they were wise, that they understood this,
That they would discern their future!
- 30 “How could one chase a thousand,
And two put ten thousand to flight,
Unless their Rock had sold them,
And the LORD had given them up?
- 31 “Indeed their rock is not like our Rock,
Even our enemies themselves judge this.
- 32 “For their vine is from the vine of Sodom,
And from the fields of Gomorrah;
Their grapes are grapes of poison,
Their clusters, bitter.
- 33 “Their wine is the venom of serpents,
And the deadly poison of cobras.
- 34 ‘Is it not laid up in store with Me,
Sealed up in My treasuries?
- 35 ‘Vengeance is Mine, and retribution, [[Rom 12:19](#); [Heb 10:30](#)]
In due time their foot will slip;
For the day of their calamity is near,
And the impending things are hastening upon them.’

Vindication of Israel and Yahweh

- 36 “For the LORD will vindicate His people, [[Heb 10:30](#)]
And will have compassion on His servants,
When He sees that *their* strength is gone,
And there is none *remaining*, bond or free.
- 37 “And He will say, ‘Where are their gods,
The rock in which they sought refuge?’
- 38 ‘Who ate the fat of their sacrifices,
And drank the wine of their drink offering?
Let them rise up and help you,
Let them be your hiding place!
- 39 ‘See now that I, I am He,
And there is no god besides Me;
It is I who put to death and give life.
I have wounded and it is I who heal,
And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.
- 40 ‘Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven,
And say, as I live forever,
41 If I sharpen My flashing sword,
And My hand takes hold on justice,
I will render vengeance on My adversaries,
And I will repay those who hate Me.
- 42 ‘I will make My arrows drunk with blood,
And My sword will devour flesh,
With the blood of the slain and the captives,
From the long-haired leaders of the enemy.’
- 43 [*“Rejoice with him, you heavens,
and let all of God’s angels worship him.”*] [[Heb 1:6](#)] (NLT/LXX)
“Rejoice, O nations, *with* His people; [[Rom 15:10](#)]
For He will avenge the blood of His servants,
And will render vengeance on His adversaries,
And will atone for His land *and* His people.”

Moses’ Last Warning

- 44 Then Moses came and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he, with Joshua the son of Nun.

45 When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel,
 46 he said to them, “Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, *even* all the words of this law.
 47 For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you will prolong your days in the land, which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.”

Yahweh Tells Moses to Prepare for Death

48 The LORD spoke to Moses that very same day, saying,
 49 “Go up to this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab opposite Jericho, and look at the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the sons of Israel for a possession.
 50 Then die on the mountain where you ascend, and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people,
 51 because you broke faith with Me in the midst of the sons of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, because you did not treat Me as holy in the midst of the sons of Israel.
 52 For you shall see the land at a distance, but you shall not go there, into the land which I am giving the sons of Israel.”

The Blessing of Moses (February 1406 BC)

Deuteronomy 33

Introduction and Historical Review

1 Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the sons of Israel before his death.

2 He said,

“The LORD came from Sinai,
 And dawned on them from Seir;
 He shone forth from Mount Paran,
 And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; [cf. [Acts 7:53](#); [Gal. 3:19](#); [Heb. 2:2](#)]
 At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them.

3 “Indeed, He loves the people;
 All Your holy ones are in Your hand,
 And they followed in Your steps;
Everyone receives of Your words.

4 “Moses charged us with a law,
 A possession for the assembly of Jacob.

5 “And He was king in Jeshurun,
 When the heads of the people were gathered,
 The tribes of Israel together.

Reuben

6 “May Reuben live and not die,
 Nor his men be few.”

Judah

7 And this regarding Judah; so he said,

“Hear, O LORD, the voice of Judah,
 And bring him to his people.
 With his hands he contended for them,
 And may You be a help against his adversaries.”

Levi

8 Of Levi he said,

“Let Your Thummim and Your Urim *belong* to Your godly man,
 Whom You proved at Massah,
 With whom You contended at the waters of Meribah;

9 Who said of his father and his mother,
 ‘I did not consider them’;

And he did not acknowledge his brothers,
Nor did he regard his own sons,
For they observed Your word,
And kept Your covenant.

10 “They shall teach Your ordinances to Jacob,
And Your law to Israel.

They shall put incense before You,
And whole burnt offerings on Your altar.

11 “O LORD, bless his substance,
And accept the work of his hands;
Shatter the loins of those who rise up against him,
And those who hate him, so that they will not rise *again*.”

Benjamin

12 Of Benjamin he said,

“May the beloved of the LORD dwell in security by Him,
Who shields him all the day,
And he dwells between His shoulders.”

Joseph—Ephraim and Manasseh

13 Of Joseph he said,

“Blessed of the LORD *be* his land,
With the choice things of heaven, with the dew,
And from the deep lying beneath,

14 And with the choice yield of the sun,
And with the choice produce of the months.

15 “And with the best things of the ancient mountains,
And with the choice things of the everlasting hills,

16 And with the choice things of the earth and its fullness,
And the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush.

Let it come to the head of Joseph,
And to the crown of the head of the one distinguished among his brothers.

17 “As the firstborn of his ox, majesty is his,
And his horns are the horns of the wild ox;
With them he will push the peoples,
All at once, *to* the ends of the earth.
And those are the ten thousands of Ephraim,
And those are the thousands of Manasseh.”

Zebulun and Issachar

18 Of Zebulun he said,

“Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going forth,
And, Issachar, in your tents.

19 “They will call peoples *to* the mountain;
There they will offer righteous sacrifices;
For they will draw out the abundance of the seas,
And the hidden treasures of the sand.”

Gad

20 Of Gad he said,

“Blessed is the one who enlarges Gad;
He lies down as a lion,
And tears the arm, also the crown of the head.

21 “Then he provided the first *part* for himself,

For there the ruler's portion was reserved;
 And he came *with* the leaders of the people;
 He executed the justice of the LORD,
 And His ordinances with Israel."

Dan

22 Of Dan he said,

"Dan is a lion's whelp,
 That leaps forth from Bashan."

Naphtali

23 Of Naphtali he said,

"O Naphtali, satisfied with favor,
 And full of the blessing of the LORD,
 Take possession of the sea and the south."

Asher

24 Of Asher he said,

"More blessed than sons is Asher;
 May he be favored by his brothers,
 And may he dip his foot in oil.

25 "Your locks will be iron and bronze,
 And according to your days, so will your leisurely walk be.

Conclusion—General Praise and Blessing

26 "There is none like the God of Jeshurun,
 Who rides the heavens to your help,
 And through the skies in His majesty.

27 "The eternal God is a dwelling place,
 And underneath are the everlasting arms;
 And He drove out the enemy from before you,
 And said, 'Destroy!'

28 "So Israel dwells in security,
 The fountain of Jacob secluded,
 In a land of grain and new wine;
 His heavens also drop down dew.

29 "Blessed are you, O Israel;
 Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD,
 Who is the shield of your help
 And the sword of your majesty!
 So your enemies will cringe before you,
 And you will tread upon their high places."

The Death of Moses (February 1406 BC)

Deuteronomy 34:1–7

1 Now 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 all the land, Gilead as far as Dan,

2 and all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea,

3 and the Negev and the plain in the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

4 Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see *it* with your eyes, but you shall not go over there."

5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

6 And He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but no man knows his burial place to this day. [[Jude 1:9](#)]

7 Although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated.

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

Deuteronomy 34:8–12

8 So the sons of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the days of weeping *and* mourning for Moses came to an end.

9 Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

10 Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

11 for all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land,

12 and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation La Habra, Calif. Used by permission. All rights reserved. For Permission to Quote Information visit <http://www.lockman.org>.