

**Text: Deuteronomy 31:14-26**

**Title: “Write down this song for yourselves”**

**GOD’S COMMAND TO WRITE A SONG**

*“Now therefore, write down this song for yourselves, and teach it to the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel.*

*Deuteronomy 31:19*

1. God gave a remarkable Command – to write a Song
2. The Song was to be taught to the children of Israel and “put in their mouths”
  - a. The Song was not meant to be simply “archived”
  - b. It was to be memorised
  - c. It was to be actively sung
  - d. It was to be passed down from generation to generation
3. Why a Song?
  - a. God understands our make-up
  - b. Songs and Music speak deeply to us  
It is able to reach
    - i. Our mind
    - ii. Our emotions
    - iii. Our memories
  - c. Songs can be a powerful education tool
  - d. They can stir up meaningful responses from us

**THE COMPOSER OF THE SONG – MOSES**

*Therefore Moses wrote this song the same day, and taught it to the children of Israel.*

*Deuteronomy 31:22*

1. There were at least three songs that Moses composed
  - a. Exodus 15
  - b. Psalm 90
  - c. Deuteronomy 32
2. Not only was Moses a Leader, he was also a Songwriter
3. He would be most apt to write this Song
  - a. He had been there since the beginning
  - b. He knew the problems of Israel first-hand
 

He could even anticipate the problems of Israel after his passing
  - c. He knew God most closely
 

It was God who said that He spoke to Moses face to face

### **THE MESSAGE TO BE COMMUNICATED IN THE SONG**

*<sup>20</sup> When I have brought them to the land flowing with milk and honey, of which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and filled themselves and grown fat, then they will turn to other gods and serve them; and they will provoke Me and break My covenant.*

*<sup>21</sup> Then it shall be, when many evils and troubles have come upon them, that this song will testify against them as a witness; for it will not be forgotten in the mouths of their descendants, for I know the inclination of their behavior today, even before I have brought them to the land of which I swore to give them.”*

*Deuteronomy 31:20-21*

1. God’s Faithfulness
 

God will bring the people of Israel into the Promised Land

  - a. Out of His Grace and Mercy
  - b. Out of His Promises to the forefathers
  - c. Out of His covenant Faithfulness
2. Israel’s Unfaithfulness forewarned
  - a. While God will prosper them

- i. They will eat
    - ii. They will fill themselves
    - iii. They will even grow fat
  - b. They will become complacent and sin against Him
    - i. This was the inclination of their behaviour
    - ii. They will turn to other gods and serve them
    - iii. They will provoke God to anger
    - iv. They will break His covenant
- 3. The certainty of God's discipline upon Israel
 

Israel's disobedience will not be without consequence

  - a. God's anger will be aroused against them
  - b. He will forsake them and hide His face from them
  - c. Many evils and troubles shall befall them

### **THE CONTENT OF THE SONG**

*Then Moses spoke in the hearing of all the assembly of Israel the words of this song until they were ended:*

*Deuteronomy 31:30*

*So Moses came with Joshua the son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people.*

*Deuteronomy 32:44*

- 1. The full content of the Song was recorded in Deuteronomy 32:1-43
- 2. It contained all of the elements mentioned previously
- 3. While there is sorrow over Israel's disobedience and punishment, there was still hope in its conclusion
  - a. God will avenge His servants
  - b. In spite of the great sin committed against Him, God will make atonement for His land and His people

## WHAT WE ARE MEANT TO COMPREHEND

1. God desires to help us in every way
  - a. In the case of Israel, He gave to them a Song through Moses
  - b. He sought to prepare and warn them through a way that would speak best to them
2. This Song was meant to serve as a Witness
  - a. On one hand, it was a Witness for God
    - i. To all that He had done for them
    - ii. To His Mercy and Lovingkindness
    - iii. To His unchanging faithfulness
  - b. On the other, it was a Witness against Israel
    - i. They cannot deny that they were not warned of their sinful and evil inclinations
    - ii. They also cannot deny that they were not warned of the disaster that would befall them because of their corruption
    - iii. They could not claim ignorance
3. The ministry of Song today
  - a. Songs about God are meant to be most meaningful
    - i. As God is poetically and beautifully portrayed
    - ii. As God's truths are expressed in fresh perspectives
  - b. Thank God for those who are able to write good songs about God
  - c. For us who sing:
    - i. We ought to be stirred up to obedience as we sing
    - ii. But songs also testify against us when we sing but live in disobedience