

Text : Deut 33:20-21

Title : “He administered the justice of the LORD”

Introduction

1. The need to compare the two prayers

a) Prayer of Jacob

b) Prayer of Moses

2. Evaluating the different prayers

a) Based on what has been prayed

b) Observing the differences

c) Reflects who Jacob and Moses were

The differences between the prayers of Jacob and Moses

1. The prayer of Jacob

a) Basic

b) Limited

c) Superficial

2. The prayer of Moses

a) Enlightened

b) Greater insight

c) Depth

3. The challenge for us is to pray more significantly

a) To pray with enlightenment

b) To pray with depth

Jacob's prayer for Gad

"Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him, but he shall triumph at last." Genesis 49:19

1. Gad was the offspring of Zilpah, Leah's maid

⁹ When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing, she took Zilpah her maid and gave her to Jacob as wife. ¹⁰ And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son. ¹¹ Then Leah said, "A troop comes!" So she called his name Gad.

Genesis 30:9-11

2. Gad's name means "troop"

- a) Leah had already given birth to four children
- b) Zilpah's son, Gad made it a total of 5 sons
- c) It seems like a troop was coming

3. Forewarning given

- a) In Jacob's prayer, he used Gad's name as a forewarning
- b) A troop of enemies may afflict him
- c) Hard times may come

4. A word of Hope

- a) Gad will be able to overcome
- b) He will not be destroyed
- c) God will help him triumph over his enemy

Moses' prayer for Gad

²⁰ "And of Gad he said:

"Blessed *is* he who enlarges Gad;
He dwells as a lion,
And tears the arm and the crown of his head.
²¹ He provided the first *part* for himself,
Because a lawgiver's portion was reserved there.
He came *with* the heads of the people;
He administered the justice of the LORD,
And His judgments with Israel."

Deuteronomy 33:20-21

1. The blessing of being given the eastern land of the River Jordan

- a) The tribes of Reuben and Gad saw that the eastern land was good for the multitude of their livestock Numbers 32:1
- b) They gathered to the heads of the people...Moses, Eleazar the priest and the leaders of the congregation Numbers 32:2
- c) They requested for the eastern land, as it was good for livestock
Numbers 32:4
- d) Moses was initially concerned Numbers 32:6-15
- e) The tribes reassured Moses Numbers 32:16-19
- f) After further clarification, Moses gave the command for these tribes
Numbers 32:28-30

2. It is the Lord who gave them the land

“Then I commanded you at that time, saying: ‘The LORD your God has given you this land to possess. All you men of valour shall cross over armed before your brethren, the children of Israel.

Deuteronomy 3:18

3. He dwells as a lion

- a) Gad is likened to a lion...an imagery of being a powerful fighter
- b) They would have the power to defeat both the armies and the leaders of the enemies

4. To administer the justice of God

- a) An amazing insight from Moses in prayer
- b) Gad would become a man of justice
- c) Moses saw the greater possibility of Gad...to administer justice
- d) Gad would have a sense of justice in what they did
 - i) In bringing judgment to the nations of Canaan
 - ii) In ensuring justice is upheld in Israel ...to do good and right

5. The challenge to be people of justice

- a) To pray to be people of justice
- b) To have a greater sense of what is good and right

Lessons learned

1. The challenge to pray with enlightenment

- a) Going beyond basic and superficial
- b) Bring in greater depth and insight into our prayers
- c) Learn to pray for enlightenment as Paul did for the Ephesian church

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;"

Ephesians 1:17-18

2. The challenge to be people of justice

- a) Cultivate a greater sense of good and right
- b) To uphold justice wherever we are