

Text: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Title: "There has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses"
(A tribute to Moses)

INTRODUCTION

1. The closing chapter of Deuteronomy
 - a) It focuses on the death of Moses
 - b) It was written as a tribute to Moses
 - c) It was obviously not written by Moses
2. Many challenging lessons to learn from this Tribute to Moses
 - a) It is not wrong to pay Tribute
 - b) It is noble

MOUNT NEBO

¹Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land of Gilead as far as Dan,

²all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea,

³the South, and the plain of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

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

Deuteronomy 34:1-4

1. The Geographical Context Deuteronomy 34:1a
 - a) The mountain range is called Abarim Mountain Range
 - b) Mount Nebo is one of the Mountains in the Abarim range
 - c) Pisgah
It is a word that describes a high crest on Mount Nebo

2. From Pisgah Moses had a great view of the Promised Land

- a) The land of Gilead as far as Dan Deuteronomy 34:1b
- b) Naphtali, Ephraim and Manasseh Deuteronomy 34:2a
- c) Judah Deuteronomy 34:2b
- d) The South, Valley of Jericho and as far as Zoar Deuteronomy 34:3

3. The Lord's word to Moses Deuteronomy 34:4

- a) This is the Land which God promised to give to Abraham and his descendants
- b) God caused Moses to see the Promised Land
- c) But Moses will not enter into the Land
- d) God did not refer to Moses' sin (Numbers 20)
- e) This was God's way of honouring Moses as His faithful servant for 40 years!

THE DEATH OF MOSES

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 a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.

⁷ Moses *was* one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigour diminished.

⁸ And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping *and* mourning for Moses ended.

Deuteronomy 34:5-8

1. In the land of Moab Deuteronomy 34:5

- a) Moses died in Mount Nebo, part of the Abarim Range
- b) Everything was according to God's word

2. Special Honour granted Deuteronomy 34:6

- a) God buried Moses personally

b) This burial was in the valley of Moab

c) He was buried in an unmarked grave

3. Remembering the life of Moses

Deuteronomy 34:7

a) He died at a venerable age of 120

b) His eyes were not dimmed

c) Nor did his natural vigour diminish

4. Mourning Period

Deuteronomy 34:8

a) The mourning period was 30 days

b) The children of Israel wept as Moses passed on

A GREAT TRIBUTE PAID TO MOSES

⁹ Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

¹¹ in all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land,

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

Deuteronomy 34:9-12

1. Honourable tribute paid to Moses

Deuteronomy 34:10

a) There has not risen in Israel a prophet like Moses

b) The LORD knew Moses “face to face”

2. Remembering the deeds of Moses in Egypt

Deuteronomy 34:11

a) The 10 signs and wonders

b) God had sent Moses to perform them

i) Before Pharaoh

ii) Before Pharaoh's servants

iii) In all the land of Egypt

c) The mighty power that Moses wielded

Deuteronomy 34:12

i) It brought terror to Egypt

ii) This was the power of God displayed

3. The successor of Moses

Deuteronomy 34:9

a) Joshua the son of Nun

b) Full of spirit and wisdom

c) Moses had inaugurated him as his successor

d) The children of Israel yielded to Joshua's leadership

OUR CHALLENGE

1. To learn how to appreciate the people whom God has appointed to lead us

2. To honour them when they are alive

3. To pay Tribute to them when the Lord calls them home