

## Bi121 Old Testament

### *Lesson Bi121- 30 Death of Moses (Deut 30-34)*

The values and characteristics of a spiritual leader are very important to God. Scripture tells us that God has a greater judgment for the leaders who fail Him than for other believers. Jesus taught, "From the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Luke 12:48). This lesson discusses both the great qualities of Moses and his awful failure.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go up to the top of this mountain and see the land I have given the Israelites. After you have seen it, you too will be gathered to your people as your brother Aaron was, for when the community rebelled, both of you disobeyed my command to honor me as holy before their eyes" (Num 27:12-14).

Moses prayed, "Lord, appoint a man over this community, who will lead them out and bring them in, so the Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd."

God said, "Take Joshua, son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit and lay your hand on him. Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the entire assembly and commission him in their presence. Give him some of your authority so the whole Israelite community will obey him. He is to stand before Eleazar, the priest, who will obtain decisions for him by inquiring of the Urim before the Lord."

The 'Urim,' meaning 'lights,' was carried in a pouch over the heart of the high priest, as given to Aaron with his first garments (Ex 28:30). Together with the 'Thummim,' it was used by the high priest to receive counsel from God. They were perhaps two precious stones, taken out at times to indicate God's decision on certain questions. Thus Eleazar, the new high priest, received messages of guidance from the Lord for His people.

So Moses did as the Lord commanded. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar and all the people. Moses then laid his hands on Joshua and commissioned him to lead the nation (Num 27:15-23).

Moses repeated all of God's instructions to the people again. Then he said, "I have a command for you. It is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. The command is simply this; love the Lord your God, walk in his ways, keep his commands; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you. If your heart turns away and you are not obedient, you will certainly be destroyed.

"I am asking heaven and earth to witness what I am saying. I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life" (Deut 30:11-20).

Sometime later Moses said to the people, "I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. The Lord has said to me, 'You shall not cross the Jordan.' The Lord himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you

will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the Lord said. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid” (Deut 31:1-3).

Then Moses said to Joshua, “Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their forefathers to give them. The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

Moses wrote down all the laws the Lord had given in a book and commanded the priests to read it to the whole congregation every seven years during the Feast of Tabernacles. This was so the children and aliens could listen and learn to fear the Lord and follow carefully all the words of this law.

After saying this, Moses climbed Mount Nebo to the top of Pisgah, which was across the Jordan River from Jericho. There God showed him the land He was giving to Israel. He was able to see it all, from the north to the south, from the east to the west. The Lord said, “This is the land I promised to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I have allowed you see it, but you cannot cross over into it.”

So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. The Lord buried him in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but no one knew where his grave was. He was 120 years old, yet his eyesight was still good and he was physically strong. The people mourned for 30 days after the death of Moses. Joshua was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.

“Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. No one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel” (Deut 34:10-11). Yet, God promised the people that someday, another prophet like Moses would come and God would put His words in that prophet’s mouth.

This story is **important** because it shows the characteristics that Moses and all spiritual leaders should possess. He commissioned his replacement and gave that leader encouragement, pointing the direction for receiving true blessings from God.

The main **truth** of this story is that Moses is an example of a faithful leader of God’s people, who knew God face to face.

To **review** this lesson, answer these questions.

1. What command did Moses give the people before his death?
  - A. [Pause for 5 seconds.] If you said, “Love the Lord your God, and do what He says,” you are correct.
2. What made Moses different than any other prophet in Israel?
  - A. [Pause for 5 seconds.] If you said, “Moses knew the Lord knew face to face,” you are correct.

3. Why was Moses not allowed to enter the land with the Israelites?
  - A. [Pause for 5 seconds.] If you said, “He could not go in with them because he failed to obey God before the people,” you are correct.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to listen to the story at least three times. As you hear the story each time, imagine how it happened; see the events in your mind. Then tell the story in your own words as you remember it. Then listen to the story again and retell it until you feel sure you are repeating the circumstances and actions correctly. You should spend at least 45 minutes in learning the story. You may need to have someone check that you are telling the story correctly. Tell this story to someone and then ask the question, “What does it take to be a faithful leader for God and His people today?” Discuss the answer in light of this lesson.

This lesson concludes the course Bible 121.