



Lesson 64

The Death of Moses

Story Elements

- **Text:** Deu. 31:1-34:8
- **Setting:** approx. 1406 B.C., near Moab
- **Characters** God and Moses
- **Plot:** Moses prepares Israel for his death and journeys to the top of Mt. Nebo for his final moments.
- **Key word(s)** “fear not, neither be _____” (31:8; cf 31:6)
- **Climax:** *Deu 34:1 And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the LORD shewed him all the land ...*

Moses Prepares Israel and Joshua

1. (31:1-3) At the age of 120 years, Moses prepared Israel for a new leader for two reasons:
 - a. He was no longer able to “go out and come in” – not that he was physically unable to move (cf. 34:7) but that he could no longer take care of the responsibilities of his _____.
 - b. Also, God had told Moses that he could not enter the Promised Land because of his _____ at Kadesh when Moses struck the rock twice. (Num. 20:12)
2. (31:4-8) Moses called Joshua and charged him before all the people, urging him as he did the nation to trust the promises God and to “be strong and of a good _____.”
3. (31:9-13) Moses wrote the Law of God in a scroll and delivered it to the Levites for safekeeping (in the ark, cf. v 26). He then instructed the Hebrews to have the Law of God read before all Israel every _____ years during the Feast of Tabernacles.

APPLICATION → It edifies believers to both read God’s Word and to hear it read.

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

God Prepares Moses and Joshua

4. (31:14-23) God instructed Moses to bring Joshua to the Tabernacle so he could be commissioned by the LORD.
 - a. (vv 16-21) God warned Moses that the children of Israel would break the _____ and worship false gods, and that God would then bring judgment against them. He instructed Moses to write a song that would warn of God’s judgment so that the Hebrews would have a witness against their sins.
 - b. (v 23) God charged Joshua to “Be strong and of a good _____: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swore unto them: and I will be with thee.”

Moses’ Song and Blessing

5. (32:1-43) Moses composed a song, according to God’s instructions, which recounted the blessing and goodness of God, foretold the stubborn _____ of Israel, and warned of the holy wrath of the LORD.
6. (32:48-50) God summoned Moses to Mt. _____ where he was to die. Before departing, Moses gave a blessing to his beloved nation (33:1-29).
 - a. (vv 1-25) Moses singles out each of the tribes of Israel and gives them a specific blessing.

- b. (vv 26-29) The final part of Moses' blessing is a blessing to God.

APPLICATION → Some have wondered, "How can we bless God?" Remarking upon this passage, Matthew Henry answers this question, "When we are expecting that God should bless us in doing well for us we must bless him by speaking well of him: and one of the most solemn ways of praising God is by acknowledging that _____."¹

- c. Moses also addressed the whole nation (using the poetical name *Jeshurun* instead of *Israel*). In this section Moses reminds the Hebrews that there is ...
 - i. ...happiness in the _____ of God.
 - ii. ...safety in the _____ of God.
 - iii. ...victory in the _____ of God.

Moses' Death

- 7. (34:1-4) Moses trekked to the top of Mt. Nebo, as God commanded. There God showed him scenes of the Promised Land before he died.
 - a. This viewing of the Promised Land before his death was not some cruel punishment God inflicted upon Moses (because Moses was going to a better country), but a _____ given to Moses – a comfort in his death to see the place he had been leading his people for 40 years.
 - b. (v 7-12) Moses died at the age of 120 years. Deuteronomy closes with this eulogy of Moses:

Deuteronomy 34:10
***And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses,
whom the LORD knew face to face,***

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): "dismayed" • 1. a. office; b. disobedience • 2. courage • 3. seven • 4. a. covenant; b. courage • 5. Rebellion • 6. Nebo → there is none like him; c. i. salvation; ii. shield; iii. sword • 7. a. mercy

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. (Note: some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 286.