

# **THE EXODUS**

## **The Death of Moses** **Deuteronomy 32:48-34:12** **Lesson 17**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*  
*December 25, 2011*

# The unity of the Bible

- ▶ Apparent conflict between Old & New Testaments
- ▶ A common message in a different setting
  - Sin and condemnation
  - Justification by faith
  - Sanctification by the Word
  - The hope of Christ's coming
- ▶ The death of Moses – a modern message

# Deuteronomy – 3 messages

- ▶ Deuteronomy 1-4 – Why are we here?
- ▶ Deuteronomy 5-26 – What must we do?
- ▶ Deuteronomy 27-30 – How shall we live?
- ▶ Deuteronomy 31-34 – A song and a blessing

# Deuteronomy 31-34

- ▶ Selection of Joshua to succeed Moses (31)
- ▶ The Song of Moses (32:1-47)
- ▶ The death of Moses announced (32:48-52)
- ▶ The Blessing of Moses (33)
- ▶ The death of Moses (34)

# Moses anticipates Christmas

“These all died in faith,  
not having received the things promised,  
but having seen them and greeted them from afar . . .”  
Hebrews 11:13-16

# Moses is called to die (32:48-52)

- ▶ The Promise of the land of Canaan
- ▶ Song of Moses: a Promise in doubt?
  - No longer His children (32:5)
  - Forsook God – 32:15-18
  - Wrath – 32:23-27 – destroy their memory
  - No wisdom – 32:28-30
  - Vengeance – 32:35
- ▶ A contingent Promise (23:46-47)
- ▶ Moses disqualified!

# The sin of Moses

- ▶ Seemingly trivial
- ▶ “Broke faith” (ESV)
  - Num. 31:16 – the sin of Israel at Peor – fornication
  - 1 Chr. 5:25 – idolatry
  - Ezekiel 20:25-27 – pagan worship with child sacrifices
- ▶ “Did not treat Me as holy in the midst of the people of Israel”

# The outcome of Moses' sin

- ▶ See the Land, but not enter
- ▶ Is Moses paying for his sins?
- ▶ What about the death of Christ?
- ▶ A trial of faith
- ▶ See the Land and be gathered to your people



# An illustration of 1 Peter

- ▶ Must know the future to know the present
- ▶ Paradox: The way your present appears is different from what it truly is
- ▶ The stage is set for Moses to act in faith
  - He blesses Israel
  - He goes up on Mt. Nebo to die

# **Moses blesses the people of Israel**

- ▶ An introduction to the hope of Moses (33:1-5)
- ▶ Blessings for the nation (33:6-25)
- ▶ A summary of the hope of Moses (33:26-29)

# The Hope of Moses (33:1-5)

- ▶ A prayer for blessing
- ▶ An eschatological statement (33:2)
  - Isaiah 63 – Who is this Who comes from Edom . . . ?
  - Habakkuk 3 – “God came from Teman and the Holy One from Mount Paran”
  - Jude 14-15 – Enoch’s message – “Behold, the LORD comes with ten thousands of His holy ones to execute judgment . . .”
- ▶ His holy ones were righteous (33:3-4)
- ▶ The LORD became king in Jeshurun (33:5)

# Moses blesses Israel

- ▶ Reuben – Life, not death
- ▶ Judah
  - LORD, hear the Voice of Judah – Christ
  - The LORD will bring Him to His people
  - The LORD will overcome His adversaries

# Moses blesses Israel

## ► Levi

- Tested at Massah and Meribah – when Israel tested God
- Devoted to God above family ties (Ex. 32:26-27, Lev. 10)
- Special place in Israel
  - Urim and Thummim – discerning the will of God
  - Teaching role
  - Leading worship
- Numbers 25:13 – perpetual priesthood

# Moses blesses Israel

## ▶ Benjamin

- Dwells in safety
- Between His shoulders – terms of endearment

## ▶ Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh)

- Birthright remains (Psalm 78:60)
- Material prosperity
- Leader in Israel

## ▶ Zebulun and Issachar

- “In your going out” – all activities of daily life
- Material prosperity with spiritual leadership

# Moses blesses Israel

## ▶ Gad

- Execute justice and righteousness

## ▶ Dan

- Lion's cub – royalty – son of God

## ▶ Naphtali

- Satisfied and richly blessed by the LORD

## ▶ Asher

- Most blessed of the sons be Asher

# **The Hope of Moses (33:26-29)**

- ▶ The incomparable God comes to help
- ▶ Eternal God is dwelling place – an eternal kingdom
- ▶ Living in peace and prosperity on the earth
- ▶ Happy in the salvation of the LORD



# The death of Moses (34)

- ▶ Moses saw the Land – with eyes of faith
- ▶ Moses did not enter – waits with the saints
- ▶ Final commendation of Moses by the LORD
  - None like Moses in communion with God
  - None like Moses in ministry
- ▶ Moses did not die under judgment

**Come, my soul, thy suit prepare**  
**Trinity Hymnal, #531**

Show me what I have to do,  
Ev'ry hour my strength renew:  
Let me live a life of faith,  
Let me die thy people's death.

Let me die “Moses’ death”!

# A Christmas Message!

- ▶ Moses lived and died looking for the Baby in the manger
- ▶ The Baby in the manger is the King of Jeshurun
- ▶ Happy are the people saved by the LORD
- ▶ “Good tidings of great joy . . .” Luke 2:10