



The Exodus

Lesson 18: Moses Prepares The People

(Deuteronomy 1-34)

The time had come for the Israelites to get ready and cross the Jordan River into the land God had promised to give them. The Israelites who complained against and did not obey God in the wilderness had died. And, Moses was not allowed to go into the promised land because he had disobeyed God. So, Moses gathered the people together to prepare them to enter the promised land of Canaan (as recorded in the book of Deuteronomy).

He reminded the Israelites of the many things God had done for them and how they had tested God while they were in the wilderness. Even though God had given Canaan to the Israelites, ten of the men who were sent to spy out the land returned with a report that caused the Israelites to fear. So, the people did not go into the land and they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Yet, God did give the Israelites some victories as they traveled through the wilderness – even gaining some settlements on that side of the Jordan River. Therefore, God had shown them that He is stronger than all their enemies.

The Israelites should have remembered how God was with them and blessed them when they served and worshiped Him. However, they should also have remembered how they were punished whenever they complained against God, did not trust and obey Him, and worshiped false gods. So, Moses reminded the Israelites of God's commandments.

Moses wanted to make sure that they would not forget God when they came into the Canaan land. Yes, it was a good land flowing with milk and honey, but they needed to always love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and strength. They needed to talk about God and His laws with their families and write His laws where they could be reminded of them.

Then, when they came into the promised land, God commanded them not to worship or serve any other gods. In fact, when God would bring them into the land, He commanded them to destroy the people of the land. This was so that the people of the land would not cause the Israelites to forget God or worship a false god. So, they were told to destroy all the people who worshiped other gods and all the things that were used to worship other gods.

The Israelites needed to remember that they were God’s special people. He had blessed them in many ways. But, God said that the Israelites needed to fear Him, always keep His commandments, love Him, and worship Him. Moses said that doing these things were for their own good. For, if they would do these things, God would bless them.

Moses taught the people God’s laws so that they would remember and keep them whenever they came into the promised land of Canaan. When Moses told them these things, the Israelites all agreed that the Lord is their God and that they would obey Him. Therefore, God said that the Israelites were His people and He would bless them.

Moses told the people that if they obeyed God, God would bless them. He would cause them to win against all their enemies. Everything they would do would be blessed. But, if they would not obey God, Moses warned them that they would be punished. They would not win against their enemies. And, they would not be successful in what they would do. Therefore, Moses said they had a choice between life and death, blessing and punishment – and told them to choose life by obeying God!

Then, after Moses had finished preparing the Israelites to be courageous and obedient to God, Moses went up to Mount Nebo. Because he had not obeyed God, God would not let him go into Canaan. However, God let Moses look into the Canaan land from the top of the mountain. And, Moses died on the mountain and was buried by God. Then, Joshua became the new leader of the Israelites who would bring them into the Canaan land.

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Study Questions:

- 1) What Bible book records Moses preparing the people to enter the promised land?
- 2) What was the promised land? Who had this land been promised to?
- 3) Why did Moses want to prepare the people before they entered the land?
- 4) What agreement did the Israelites and God make after hearing Moses talk?
- 5) What would happen if the Israelites obeyed God?
- 6) What would happen if the Israelites disobeyed God?
- 7) What happened to Moses on Mount Nebo?
- 8) Who became the new leader of the Israelites?

Memory Verse:

“Be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you are not to turn aside to the right or the left. Follow the whole instruction the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live, prosper, and have a long life in the land you will possess” (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: