

Song of Moses

Deuteronomy 31:30-32:47

Study Guide

Moses is now nearing the last days of his life. He is about to conclude this sermon given to the next generation of Israelites. Before he closes, he offers them a song. This song will help Israel memorize important truths about their past, present, and future.

In his song, Moses describes God's providential election and care for the nation of Israel. He also shows Israel's neglect for God's goodness and lack of faithfulness toward Him. Moses sings that God will judge His people, and eventually, they will have no where to turn but to Him. Finally, God will spiritually heal both Israel and the Gentile nations who trust in Him.

The song of Moses is of great importance to us today as well. It shows us that God is to be feared and that His people will not get away with sin. It also shows us our total inability to free ourselves from the trouble that we cause for ourselves. Finally, it portrays God as the gracious initiator of salvation. He alone is worthy of praise.

Day 1

Read Deuteronomy 31:30-32:14

1. Moses begins his song by inviting its hearers to join him in praising God. When Moses says that he will proclaim the name of the Lord, what does he wish the congregation to do? Read Psalm 34:3. How can you apply this principle to the way that you worship?

"Just as men spontaneously praise what they value, so they spontaneously urge us to join them in praising it: 'Isn't she lovely? Wasn't it glorious? Don't you think that is magnificent?' The Psalmists, in telling everyone to praise God, are doing what all men do when they speak of what they care about" (C. S. Lewis).

6. God had been so good to Israel. He had met their every need. How could they possibly forsake such a generous God? Ask God to forgive you for the many times that you fail to be faithful to Him. Praise Him for His gracious provision and protection of you. Tell others of His works and invite them to join you in praise.

Day 2

Read Deuteronomy 31:15-32:18

1. Instead of being thankful and obedient because of all of the good food and deeds of God, what did Israel do?

Jeshurun 32:15 This name literally means, "upright one." God's desire was that Israel be His righteous people who honored and served Him faithfully. However, they were anything but upright. The righteous ones who were meant to have a distinctive testimony of moral and spiritual character became unrighteous.

2. What did Israel sacrifice to? How is this possible?

3. Israel became so enamored with materialism that they acted as if they no longer needed God. The fears expressed earlier in the book have come to pass. Moses had warned "then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord" (6:11-12; 8:11-14). What are some of the material blessings that God has given you that may tempt you to forget God rather than to be grateful to Him?

4. What will you do to ensure that your material goods do not detract from your relationship with God?

5. Meditate on Proverbs 30:7-9. Pray the prayer that Agur prayed to the Lord so that He will keep you from sin.

Proverbs 30:7-9 "Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches- feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny You, and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God."

Day3

Read Deuteronomy 32:19-33

1. What was God's reaction to Israel's unfaithfulness? What do you think this means?

2. How does God intend to “provoke them to jealousy” in return for how they provoked Him? What does this mean? (See Romans 10:19).

3. What punishments does God say that He will do in vv. 23-25?

4. From verses 26-27, what was the only thing that prevented the Lord from permitting the complete destruction of His people?

5. Because Israel was totally obsessed with idolatry and materialism, they were no longer thinking clearly. They were “void of counsel, nor was there any understanding in them” (v. 28). God wishes that they would wake up and consider the consequences of their sin (v. 29). When you sin, what are your thought patterns? Are you thinking clearly? Do you consider the consequences of your sin? How can you start becoming a person who is wise enough to avoid sin?

Day 4

Read Deuteronomy 32:34-43

1. God’s goodness is even seen in His exposing the sin of Israel. He does not let them wander far until He allows them to experience consequences that have them crying out to Him. God not only exposes their iniquity, but the total inability of anyone other than God helping them. How does God sarcastically remind them of this?

Day 5

Read Deuteronomy 32:44-47

1. Who was with Moses as he recited this song? Who was his listening audience?
2. What was Israel to do with the words of this song?
3. What did Moses mean by referring to the words of the law by saying, "it is your life?"
4. Keeping God's word is not "futile" or "vain." It is worth it. Paul motivated the Corinthians for Christian service by telling them this. He wrote, "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (15:58). How does knowing that serving God is not futile motivate you? If you feel unmotivated, what are you lacking? What can you do to renew your mind?