

Lesson XII.

THE DEATH OF MOSES

September 21, 1902

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12. Commit to memory vs. 10-12. Read Deut., chs. 32, 33.

1 And Mo'ses went up from the plains of Mo'ab unto the mountain of Ne bo, to the top of Pi-gah, that is over against Jericho. And the Lord shewed him all the land of Gil'ead, unto Dan.

2 And all Naphtali, and the land of Eph'raim, and Manas'seh, and all the land of Ju'dah, unto the utmost sea.

3 And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zo'ar.

4 And the Lord said unto him, This is the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.

5 So Mo'ses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Mo'ab, according to the word of the Lord.

6 And he buried him in a valley in the land of Mo'ab, over against Beth-pe'or: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.

Revised Version—1 Mount Nebo; 2 Hinder; 3 The South and the Plain; 4 The valley; 5 In the mourning; 6 Hath not arisen; 7 The; 8 Wrought.

EXPLANATION

Connection—We now come to the last days of Moses. He had given his farewell address to the people, and his charge to Joshua, 31: 1-8. We have his parting songs in parts of chapters 32 and 33; and then the final scene which closes the earthly life of one who was poet, historian, warrior, law-giver, statesman, ruler, servant of God.

1. **The plains of Moab**; on the east bank of the Jordan, where they were encamped, Num. 22: 1. **The mountain of Nebo**; the highest peak of Mount Pisgah, a ridge of the Abarim range, 32: 49. **Jericho**; a city six miles to the west of the Jordan. **The land of Gil'ead**; the mountainous regions on the east of Jordan, extending sixty miles, from the Dead Sea to the Sea of Galilee. **Dan**; a city near the foot of Mt. Hermon. It is not visible from Pisgah, but Hermon is.

2, 3. **Naphtali**; in the far north of Palestine. **Ephraim and Manasseh**; in the centre. **Judah**; in the south. **The utmost sea**; the Mediterranean, 50 miles distant. **The city of palm trees**; so called because situated near a great forest of palms. **Zoar**. See Gen. 19: 23.

4. **Unto Abraham, etc.** See Gen. 12: 7; 26: 3; 28: 13. I have caused thee to see it. His undimmed eyes (v. 7), in the clear atmosphere of the East, could see a long way, but, if necessary, God could miraculously increase his vision. **Thou shalt not go over**; because of his sin at Kadesh, Num.

7 And Mo'ses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

8 And the children of Israel wept for Mo'ses in the plains of Mo'ab thirty days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Mo'ses were ended.

9 And Josh'ua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Mo'ses had laid his hands upon him; and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Mo'ses.

10 And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Mo'ses, whom the Lord knew face to face.

11 In all the signs and the wonders, which the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land.

12 And in all that mighty hand, and in all the great terror which Mo'ses shewed in the sight of all Israel.

20: 11-13. "The Lord hath put away thy sin," said Nathan to the royal transgressor; but 'thy child shall die, and the sword shall not depart from thy house.' The dying thief was pardoned, but he suffered in body the extreme penalty of his sin. Though the prodigal sits at his father's board, he can never be in health or vigor or overflowing joy."

5, 6. **Moses . . . died there; in mount Nebo.** The word of the Lord; the command of the Lord, 32: 49, 50. **He buried him**; that is, God buried him. How simply told, yet how sublime! **Beth-peor**; the "house of Peor", a Moabite idol. The place is not known. **No man knoweth his sepulchre**. Probably his burial place was kept a secret by God, that the people might not be tempted to worship their great leader. "Such a life as Moses lived must precede such a death as Moses died."

7. **A hundred and twenty years old.** He was forty years at Pharaoh's court, forty years in Arabia with Jethro, and forty years leading the people to the land of Canaan. And all the years were good years.

8. **Wept for Moses.** Now that he was gone, they saw how great he was, and how ungrateful they had been to him. **Thirty days.** The usual period of mourning was seven days (Gen. 50: 10), but for a person of rank the time was longer, Num. 20: 29.

9. **Joshua the son of Nun**; who had been appointed Moses' successor, Deut. 31: 23. **The spirit of wisdom**; insight, shrewdness, piety—qualities necessary for practical leadership. **Laid his hands**; to represent the communication of divine gifts, Num. 27: 18-23. **Hearkened unto him**; as their leader in place of Moses.

10-12. **Not a prophet . . . like unto Moses.** Only Christ was greater than he, Heb. 3: 2-6. **Whom the Lord knew face to face.** God talked with him directly and not through the medium of any messenger, Exod. 33: 11. **In all the signs and wonders, etc.**; referring to the miracles which he wrought in delivering Israel from Pharaoh. **That mighty hand, etc.**; as seen in the history of the wilderness journey with its wonderful providences.



Moses on Pisgah—(Meyer)