**Moses and His Approaching Death - Leaving a Spiritual Legacy**

**Text - Deuteronomy 31:1-9**

31 So Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. 2 And he said to them, “I am ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5731A))120 years old today; ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5731B))I am no longer able to [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#fen-NASB-5731a)]go out and come in, and the Lord has told me, ‘([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5731C))You shall not cross this Jordan.’ 3 ([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5732D))It is the Lord your God who is going to cross ahead of you; He Himself will destroy these nations before you, and you shall dispossess them. ([E](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5732E))Joshua is the one who is going to cross ahead of you, just as the Lord has spoken. 4 And the Lord will do to them just as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when He destroyed them. 5 ([F](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5734F))The Lord will turn them over to you, and you will do to them in accordance with all the commandments which I have commanded you. 6 ([G](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5735G))Be strong and courageous, ([H](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5735H))do not be afraid or in dread of them, for ([I](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5735I))the Lord your God is the One who is going with you. ([J](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5735J))He will not desert you or abandon you.”

7 Then Moses called to Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “([K](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5736K))Be strong and courageous, for you will go with this people into the land which the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you will give it to them as an inheritance. 8 And ([L](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5737L))the Lord is the one who is going ahead of you; He will be with you. ([M](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5737M))He will not desert you or abandon you. Do not fear and do not be dismayed.”

9 So Moses wrote this Law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi ([N](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+31%3A1-9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5738N))who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel.

**Overview**

When we come to realize that our time is in God's hand, we begin to understand what is truly important in life. Our own relationship with God and the spiritual well-being of those we may leave behind come to the forefront of our thinking. So the awareness that the Lord could call us home to Heaven at any moment should prompt us to be prepared to go.

**Lesson Goals**

At the conclusion of this lesson, students should:

1. Understand the value of commitment in their relationship with God.

2. Realize the importance of meditation on the promises and past workings of God.

3. Decide to emulate the faithfulness of Moses.

**Teaching Outline**

**I. God's Covenant with Israel**

* A. Moses reminded them of God's covenant.
* B. Moses reminded them of their choice.

**II. God's Charge to Joshua**

* A. He was to look forward in courage.
* B. He was to look backward in commemoration.

**III. God's Care for Moses and the people**

* A. The tribes were publicly blessed.
* B. Moses was privately buried.

**1 Timothy 2:5 -** 5For there is ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+TIMOTHY+2%3A5&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29709A))one God, *and* ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+TIMOTHY+2%3A5&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29709B))one mediator also between God and mankind, *the* ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+TIMOTHY+2%3A5&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29709C))man Christ Jesus

**Hebrews 8:6 -** 6But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, to the extent that He is also the ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+8%3A6&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30086A))mediator of ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+8%3A6&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30086B))a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

**Hebrews 9:15 -** 15 For this reason ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+9%3A15&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30108A))He is the ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+9%3A15&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30108B))mediator of a ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+9%3A15&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30108C))new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the violations that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been ([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+9%3A15&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30108D))called may ([E](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+9%3A15&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30108E))receive the promise of ([F](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+9%3A15&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30108F))the eternal inheritance.

**Hebrews 12:24 -** 24and to Jesus, the ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+12%3A24&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30224A))mediator of a new covenant, and to the ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+12%3A24&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30224B))sprinkled blood, which speaks better than ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+12%3A24&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30224C))*the blood* of Abel.

**Deuteronomy 29.9 -** 9([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+29.9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5689A))So you will keep the words of this covenant and do them, ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+29.9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5689B))in order that you may be successful in everything that you do.

**Deuteronomy 5:1 -** Now Moses summoned all Israel and said to them:

“Listen, Israel, to the statutes and ordinances which I am speaking today [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+5%3A1&version=NASB#fen-NASB-5055a)]for you to hear, so that you may learn them and be careful to do them.

**Deuteronomy 6:4**“([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+6%3A4&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5091A))Hear, Israel! The Lord is our God, the ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+6%3A4&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5091B))Lord is one!

**Deuteronomy 9:1 -**“Hear, Israel! You are crossing the Jordan today, to go in to dispossess ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+9%3A1&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5159A))nations greater and mightier than you, cities *that are* great and ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+9%3A1&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5159B))fortified to heaven,

**Deuteronomy 20.3 -** He shall say to them, ‘Hear, Israel, you are approaching the battle against your enemies today. Do not be fainthearted. ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+20.3&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5431A))Do not be afraid, or panic, or be terrified by them,

**Deuteronomy 32:1 -** “([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+32%3A1&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5760A))Listen, you heavens, and I will speak; And let the earth hear the words of my mouth!

**Proverbs 1:5 -** A wise person will hear and ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+1%3A5%2C+8&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16406A))increase in learning, And a ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+1%3A5%2C+8&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16406B))person of understanding will acquire wise counsel,

**Proverbs 1:8** ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+1%3A+8&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16409A))Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction, And ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+1%3A+8&version=NASB#cen-NASB-16409B))do not ignore your mother’s teaching;

**Mark 12:29 -** Jesus answered, “The [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+12%3A29&version=NASB#fen-NASB-24697a)]foremost is, ‘([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+12%3A29&version=NASB#cen-NASB-24697A))Hear, Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one;

**James 1:22-25 -** 22 ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A22-25&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30276A))But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A22-25&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30277a)]natural face ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A22-25&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30277B))in a mirror; 24 for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A22-25&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30278b)]he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25But one who has looked intently at the perfect law, ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A22-25&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30279C))the *law* of freedom, and has continued *in it*, not having become a forgetful hearer but [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A22-25&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30279c)]an active doer, this person will be ([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A22-25&version=NASB#cen-NASB-30279D))blessed in [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A22-25&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30279d)]what he does.

**Galatians 6:7-9 -** 7 ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+6%3A7--9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29183A))Do not be deceived, ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+6%3A7--9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29183B))God is not mocked; for ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+6%3A7--9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29183C))whatever a person sows, this he will also reap. 8 ([D](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+6%3A7--9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29184D))For the one who sows to his own flesh will reap ([E](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+6%3A7--9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29184E))destruction from the flesh, but ([F](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+6%3A7--9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29184F))the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. 9([G](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+6%3A7--9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29185G))Let’s not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we ([H](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+6%3A7--9&version=NASB#cen-NASB-29185H))do not become weary.

**1 Corinthians 15:58 -** ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+CORINTHIANS+15%3A58&version=NASB#cen-NASB-28764A))Therefore, my beloved brothers *and sisters*, be firm, immovable, always excelling in ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+CORINTHIANS+15%3A58&version=NASB#cen-NASB-28764B))the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not *in* vain in the Lord.

**Deuteronomy 32:35 -** ([A](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+32%3A35&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5794A))Vengeance is Mine, and retribution; ([B](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+32%3A35&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5794B))In *due* time their foot will slip. ([C](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+32%3A35&version=NASB#cen-NASB-5794C))For the day of their disaster is near, And the impending things are hurrying to them.’

**Psalm 73:12-19**

**12**Behold, these are the wicked;

And always at ease, they have increased *in* wealth.

**13**Surely in vain I have [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+73%3A12-19&version=NASB#fen-NASB-15034a)]kept my heart pure

And washed my hands in innocence;

**14**For I have been stricken all day long

And [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+73%3A12-19&version=NASB#fen-NASB-15035b)]chastened every morning.

**15**If I had said, “I will speak thus,”

Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children.

**16**When I pondered to understand this,

It was [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+73%3A12-19&version=NASB#fen-NASB-15037c)]troublesome in my sight

**17**Until I came into the [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+73%3A12-19&version=NASB#fen-NASB-15038d)]sanctuary of God;

*Then* I perceived their end.

**18**Surely You set them in slippery places;

You cast them down to [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+73%3A12-19&version=NASB#fen-NASB-15039e)]destruction.

**19**How they are [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+73%3A12-19&version=NASB#fen-NASB-15040f)]destroyed in a moment!

They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors!

**James 1:5 -**But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A5&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30272a)]without reproach, and it will be given to him.

**Proverbs 3:5-6 -** 5Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. 6In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

**Deuteronomy 31:1 -** So Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel.

**Deuteronomy 31:6-7 -** 6 Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.” 7Then Moses called to Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land which the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall give it to them as an inheritance.

**Deuteronomy 31:23 -** Then He commissioned Joshua the son of Nun, and said, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the sons of Israel into the land which I swore to them, and I will be with you.”

**Acts 2.41-47 -** 41So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+2.41--47&version=NASB#fen-NASB-26991a)]souls. 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+2.41--47&version=NASB#fen-NASB-26992b)]to prayer. 43 [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+2.41--47&version=NASB#fen-NASB-26993c)]Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+2.41--47&version=NASB#fen-NASB-26993d)]signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+2.41--47&version=NASB#fen-NASB-26994e)]were together and had all things in common; 45 and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+2.41--47&version=NASB#fen-NASB-26996f)]from house to house, they were taking their [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+2.41--47&version=NASB#fen-NASB-26996g)]meals together with gladness and [[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+2.41--47&version=NASB#fen-NASB-26996h)]sincerity of heart, 47praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding [[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS+2.41--47&version=NASB#fen-NASB-26997i)]to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**Joshua 1:6-9 -** 6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous; [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JOSHUA+1%3A6-9&version=NASB#fen-NASB-5859a)]be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JOSHUA+1%3A6-9&version=NASB#fen-NASB-5859b)]have success wherever you go. 8 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JOSHUA+1%3A6-9&version=NASB#fen-NASB-5860c)]be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JOSHUA+1%3A6-9&version=NASB#fen-NASB-5860d)]have success. 9Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

**Deuteronomy 21:30 -** But Sihon king of Heshbon was not willing for us to pass [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+2%3A30&version=NASB#fen-NASB-4969a)]through his land; for the Lord your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, in order to deliver him into your hand, as *he is* today.

**Deuteronomy 15:7 -** “If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+15%3A7&version=NASB#fen-NASB-5327a)]towns in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother;

**Proverbs 24:5 -** A wise man is [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+24%3A5&version=NASB#fen-NASB-17085a)]strong, And a man of knowledge [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+24%3A5&version=NASB#fen-NASB-17085b)]increases power.

**Isaiah 35:3 -**Encourage the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+35%3A3&version=NASB#fen-NASB-18324a)]exhausted, and strengthen the [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+35%3A3&version=NASB#fen-NASB-18324b)]feeble.

**Deuteronomy 32:7 -** “Remember the days of old, consider the years of all generations. ask your father, and he will inform you, your elders, and they will tell you.

**Deuteronomy 32:10 -** “He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye.

**Isaiah 57:15 -** For thus says the high and exalted One who [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+57%3A15&version=NASB#fen-NASB-18781a)]lives forever, whose name is Holy, “I dwell *on* a high and holy place, and *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit

In order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

**2 Peter 3:8 -** But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

**Psalm 31:15 -** My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me.

**James 1:17 -** Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+1%3A17&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30284a)]shifting shadow.

**1 Corinthians 2:9 -** but just as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and *which* have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

**Isaiah 59:1-2 -** Behold, the Lord’s hand is not so short that it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. **2**But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden *His* [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+59%3A1-2&version=NASB#fen-NASB-18803a)]face from you so that He does not hear.

**Luke 13:34 -**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *the city* that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen *gathers* her brood under her wings, and you would not *have it*!

**Deuteronomy 34:5-8 -** 5 So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+34%3A5-8&version=NASB#fen-NASB-5845a)]word of the Lord. 6 And He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but no man knows his burial place to this day. 7 Although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated. 8 So the sons of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the days of weeping *and* mourning for Moses came to an end.

**Deuteronomy 34:10-12 -** 10 Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, 11 for all the signs and wonders which the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land, 12and for all the mighty [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=DEUTERONOMY+34%3A10--12&version=NASB#fen-NASB-5852a)]power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel

**Memory Verses**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. 6In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

**Study Questions**

1. What is meant by covenant?

2. What were the choices God gave His people in Deuteronomy 30?

3. What was the charge Moses gave Joshua in Deuteronomy 31?

4. Describe the homegoing of Moses and the reaction of.' his people (Deuteronomy 34).

5. What is the basis of our covenant with God?

6. What is the basis of our strength and courage as Christians?

7. To whom do you need to express your appreciation today before they depart this life?

8. What elements of Moses' character mean the most to you, and which would you like most to emulate?