



Moses Is Dead, Now Therefore Arise....

“...Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel....” (Joshua 1:1-18)

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Our text for today brings out important lessons that we all need to bear in mind if we are to achieve a successful and satisfactory walk with God. First we will consider the background to this story and then the applications.

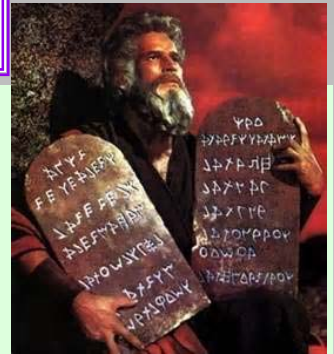
BACKGROUND

Prior to his death, God had revealed to him and Joshua about Moses' death; and Moses in response to God's instruction had charged Joshua with the responsibility of leading the children of Israel into The Promised Land (Numbers 27:12-23; Deuteronomy 3:25-29; 31:14-16, 23). As a faithful servant, who was always with Moses, Joshua probably was there on Mount Pisgah when Moses died and God buried him. So the death of Moses was not a sudden or surprising development for Joshua. However, after the death of Moses and the expiration of the 30 days of mourning, nothing seemed to have happened. Joshua was probably still overwhelmed by the fact, and probably did not come to terms with the fact that Moses is gone and is not coming back again no matter how long they mourned, waited or wished.

No word in the Bible is irrelevant, particularly if it was spoken by God. It is interesting to note that when God spoke to Joshua, He started with the "Breaking News" **"Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise..."** (Joshua 1:2). Was God wasting words by telling Joshua what he had already known and witnessed? No, but He wanted the message to sink in so that Joshua can arise! When the facts fail to sink in, it cripples action and progress.

A similar thing happened in the case of Samuel and Saul when God spoke these words **"And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him**

Moses May be Dead, But God's Plan Lives On! The Death Of Moses Does Not Change God's Plans For His People! Progress Demands Leaving Behind Moses' Death, And Moving On With God!



from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons" (I Samuel 16:1). Between I Samuel 15 when Saul was rejected and this statement in Chapter 16, about sixteen years had passed! He probably was still praying for the restoration of Saul, who had no interest in repenting. Had God not spoken to him, he probably could have mourned all his life, and missed the opportunity of anointing David the next king.

God wants us to get over what is past, which we cannot do anything about, and move on. To Joshua and majority of the Israelites, Moses has been the only leader they knew all their lives.

- 1) He was a great leader who challenged Pharaoh and not only delivered them from Egypt but led them in the wilderness for forty years.
- 2) He was the lawgiver who talked face to face with God and gave them the laws to guide their daily lives.
- 3) He was a mighty miracle worker whose miracles destroyed the powers of Egypt, parted the red sea, and provided all their necessities in the wilderness.

- 4) He fought and directed all their battles – leading them to victories and the assurance of achieving their ultimate dream of possessing The Promised Land.
- 5) He was an elder statesman far more advanced in age than the rest of the Israelites. With the death in the wilderness of all those that were 20 years old and above (Numbers 13 & 14), the only two people nearer in age to Moses (120 years) would have been Caleb (85 years) and Joshua of probably about the same age as Caleb.
- 6) The mix of his birth, background and life experiences in his walk with God singled him out as one of the most revered men of his generation.
- 7) He had done so much for them that memories of him lingered on in their lives even after he was dead.

So with the death of Moses, the Israelites felt they were undone for in the wilderness. There would have been a great sense of loss and a vacuum that they probably felt no one could fill. Even after the traditional 30 days of mourning (Deuteronomy 34:8), no body ever thought of what next to do, not even Joshua who was repeatedly charged to succeed Moses in leading the children of Israel into The Promised Land. If they were left to themselves, disillusionment would have set in. And who knows what next would have followed. In the background of all these, **God spoke and that changed things, because Joshua heard.** Even today, God is speaking, but are we hearing? God's message to Joshua highlighted a few things:

- 1) Only Moses was dead. God was still alive!
- 2) Moses' death did not abolish, affect nor alter God's covenant and plans for His people.
- 3) Despite Moses' death, God was still on the move and those who wish to walk with Him must be prepared to leave behind the issue of Moses' death and **move on with God!**
- 4) No person, no matter how important, is indispensable to the accomplishment of God's plans. Also, no person, no matter how feeble, should be despised if God is with him.

APPLICATION

Life experiences often leave us in situations similar to that which the Israelites were at the death of Moses. One sometimes becomes discouraged and disillusioned thinking all is lost. Uncertainty looms as to what comes next. Isaiah was probably in a similar situation when King Uzziah died (Isaiah 6). Single or combinations of life experiences could easily bring us into similar situations, including:

- 1) Death of a loved one.
- 2) Breakdown of important relationships (e.g. in marriage, friendship, work, etc.)
- 3) Accidents or some major setbacks in life.
- 4) Overwhelming troubles and sicknesses.
- 5) Losses through natural disasters like earthquake, flood, hurricanes, fire, etc.
- 6) Bad news
- 7) Loss of significant opportunities
- 8) Major disappointments, failure or shattered dreams.
- 9) Unexpected changes that shatters the source of hope and confidence.
- 10) Terrible disappointments, etc.

Even though we do not wish any of these awful things should happen to any one, yet God wants us to understand that even if they do happen, it is not the end of ones life. We can still ***draw a line behind those events, pick up the pieces and start all over again with God. God's plans and purposes do not necessarily come to an end simply because of the vicissitudes of life!***

So, when your Moses is dead, ***NEVER FORGET THAT:***

1. Your God is still alive and on the throne.
2. Your destiny is not tied to Moses' life but God.
3. Your 'exodus journey' (salvation, call, ministry, etc.) was not Moses' idea but God's.
4. The vision of the promised land was not born of Moses' imaginations but divinely promised by God.