

THE DEATH OF MOSES

Deut.32:48-52; 34

Text: Heb.3:5, “Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house.”

Moses climbs Mt.Nebo

Moses was told when and where he would die (Deut.32:48-52). God may not tell us the day we will die. But we know for fact all die in the course of time. It is the common destiny for sinners.

At 120 years of age and still full of strength, Moses with 20/20 vision travels to the summit, alone. What could he of been feeling having said his last farewell to Joshua, Caleb and multitudes of Israelites at the foot of Mt. Nebo?

Moses views Canaan

Read Num. 20:7-13. The saddest part of this great servant of God was that he was forbidden to enter the Promised Land because of his disobedience at the border.

To quench the community’s thirst God had given Moses a clear command to “speak to the rock.” Moses on the other hand struck the rock (Christ) with his rod twice, used rash words against Israel, and took the glory of the miracle unto himself. His rash and irrational acts displayed contempt for God’s holiness.

Moses is representative of the Law. Through him, it was received. The Law can bring you to the borders of Canaan, or close to heaven, but it can not let you in. It can only leave you out in the wilderness of conviction, but it can’t bring you into a settled peace and rest. *The Law made nothing perfect (Heb. 7:19)*. Read also James 2:10.

Joshua brought them into the land of blessing. The honor was reserved for him. Jesus who is our greater Joshua, who came full of grace and truth, can only bring us into the heavenly Canaan and give us spiritual blessings. Permanent rest for our conscience and eternal peace can only be ours in Him.

Moses dies in Moab

Moses dies alone, on the mountain top. Everyone, in fact dies alone. But there is no feeling of loneliness for the believers, for God is with them.

No one would ever know how he died . No one would ever know where the Lord laid his body, except that it was somewhere in the valley (Deut.34:6). Perhaps the Lord did this to prevent the Israel of every generation from taking the body of their great and mighty leader and venerating, therefore running the risk of making it an idol.

We see Moses next on the Mt. of the Transfiguration by the side of our risen and glorified Lord, with Elijah on the other side.

“In a sense the experience of Moses is the experience of us all. Our highest hopes and aspirations are not always fulfilled on earth, but beyond lies the land of fulfillment” (J. Oswald Sanders).

At the border crossing Moses inherited surpassingly more goodness than his human heart could ever desire (Deut. 3:25).

Soli Deo Gloria