

## Deuteronomy Chapter 34 Commentary

**1 "And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the LORD shewed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan, 2 And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea, 3 And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar. 4 And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I swore 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."**

Reading several different commentaries on this chapter; they point out that it is not expected that Moses wrote this book, but rather, someone else. Apparently, it was added to the end of Deuteronomy because it is the end of the life of Moses and concludes his work on earth. We remember that Moses concluded his words with the blessing of Israel. This chapter gives a summation of what transpired after Moses concluded his preaching, teaching, and blessing of Israel. Some say it should be the first chapter of Joshua, but I believe it is properly assigned as the end of Moses' life's work.

I would add; apparently God gave a special revelation to someone as to what transpired, since Moses went up to Pisgah alone. I suppose that God could have revealed what was to transpire to Moses and he conveyed it to someone, but that is all conjecture. No one knows who wrote this chapter, some say Joshua, some say Ezra, some say Eleazar, and some say Samuel, most say that it was either Ezra or Joshua. I say, it matters not that we know who wrote it, we know it had to be inspired by God, because no one else was present to be witness of it.

When we look at the different properties named on a map; we understand that God showed Moses the complete land of promise. I have always wondered how Moses could see all this land, but am now reminded of several things:

- Moses is atop Mount Nebo, on Pisgah
- The land of promise is only about 150 to 175 miles long and 50 to 75 miles deep.
- Mount Nebo is close to the center of the length of the land of promise.
- The top of Pisgah is about 2,700 feet above sea level. From this elevated height, Moses would be able to see a very great distance.
- Personally, I believe God gave Moses some special visual enhancements to enable him to not only see the land, but to see it well enough to see the abundance and fruitfulness thereof.

God reminds Moses; the land you are looking upon is the land I promised to give to the seed, of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob. Moses can see the land afar off, and yet he cannot enter. He must die because of his sin. The same is true for you and me today. How, you ask? We can see the eternal land of promise, by the eye of faith. It is a land afar off to us. We cannot enter there, because of our sins, because sin bringeth forth death. That is why we must be changed, and put off this body of sin, corruption, and death, and be transformed into a body that is incorruptible and immortal.

**5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. 6 And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.**

There is a reason that God hid the exact burying place of Moses. Knowing the nature of men, if they knew where Moses was buried, they would have transformed his tomb into an idol, worshipping the man Moses and not God. Moses was what he was because God made him so.

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

I was thinking about Moses making that trek up the mountain to his death; from this text, we can see that he was still a physically well man. We also notice that his eye was not dim, which enabled him to see the great expanse that God showed him from the mountain top.

**8 And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended. 9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses. 10 And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, 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 Moses shewed in the sight of all Israel.**

Thus, we come to the end of the relating's of Moses, and the work that God did through him. According to God's own testimony, there has never been another mortal man with whom he conversed, and knew, face to face.

**"and in all the great terror which Moses shewed in the sight of all Israel."** Terror, as used here, means fear. Thus, we understand this phrase means: Moses showed such a great fear for God, in the sight of Israel. This gives an example of how they should fear God, and that they should fear God and serve him in faithfulness. The same is true for us today. We should not get exalted, in the love of God, and forget that God is Almighty; in power, in wrath, and in judgment, working, and accomplishing, his own will, and not ours. After all, it was by his great power that we have been saved eternally, just as he delivered Israel out of Egypt by his own power.

We praise the Lord, for all the revelations of how, we look at Moses's life testimony and see our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. This is particularly revealed in Moses acting as an intercessor, pleading for the life of Israel. He also showed himself to be to them as a father and loved Israel as if they were his own children. He even offered to give his life up for them at one point. Praise the Lord, for godly men who are willing and ready to be completely submissive to God's will and purpose in their lives. Especially, Jesus who gave his life for the remission of our sins, our eternal salvation and life. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord! Amen.