

### **Deuteronomy 31:1-29 (August 13, 2021)**

**Reflection:** *If you had a few weeks left to live, what would you focus on doing? Do you think the things you focused on are indicative of things you found important throughout your life?*

#### **Read Deuteronomy 31:1-13**

1. Moses speaks of his impending death; how does he encourage the people of Israel? (v.1-6) What does Moses say to Joshua, and what is the significance of reminding Joshua that the Lord goes before him? (v.7-8) What was Moses' command to the elders and priests, and what was the purpose of this action? (v. 9-13)
  
2. We see a glimpse of the end of Moses' life. What was Moses focused on in the last period of his life, and do you think this is indicative of the focus of Moses' entire life? In your own thinking, how might Moses' focus in these last days be different than a foreign ruler's last days?
  
3. A significant theme in these passages is God being with the nation of Israel even as Moses passes and Israel comes under the leadership of Joshua. What do you think was the importance to the Israelites to know that God was with them? (Gen 26:24, Psa 124:1-3)
  
4. What is the value for us in the New Covenant when we think of God being with us? (cf. Gal 2:20, Eph 3:12, 2 Cor 5:17, Matt 28:20)

### **Read Deuteronomy 31:14-29**

5. Describe Joshua's commissioning. What do you think is the significance of the Lord's appearance at the tent? (v.14-15,23) What does God say about Israel's future idolatry? Moses is given a song to teach to Israel (which we will look at in a few weeks in Deuteronomy 32), what is the purpose of this song? (v.16-22) What is Moses' command and declaration to the Levites? (v.24-29)
  
6. One of the great issues in Israel is the problem of the human heart to follow idols, and in our own walk of faith, we are often confronted with the temptation of idolatry. What are some things in your life that you are tempted to live for (worship)? How does the New Testament tell us to deal with idolatry? (cf. Ex 20:3-6, 1 Cor 5:11, Col 3:5, Rom 6:17-19)
  
7. Though it doesn't use the words here, Israel clearly suffered from hardness of heart, and God's word and song was to stir them into action. However, many Israelites still harden themselves against God despite hearing him. For us in the New Covenant, the writer of Hebrews reminds us to not harden our hearts when we hear God's voice (Heb 3:15). How would you define a "hardened heart", and what causes people to harden their hearts? (Ob 3:1, 1 Tim 4:1-2, Rom 1:18-24) How does God's word help us to overcome our hardened hearts? (Ezk 37:1-10, Heb 4:12, 2 Tim 3:16-17)

**In this chapter, we see a glimpse of the final days of Moses and the future of Israel. In Moses, we see a man at the end of his life focused on glorifying God and calling Israel to be faithful covenant partners to God. On the flip side, Israel's heart will wander, and they will turn away from God. Which one are we: are we fully God's or fully in rebellion? Whichever we are, let us turn to the Word of God. If we truly love God, let us continue to ground our faith in his Word. If we are rebellious, we need to hear his Word, repent, and love him. I hope we all spend some time this week reflecting on our relationship with God.**