

A Very Simple Survey of the Old Testament

Sunday School Lessons — by Keith R. Blades

Lesson 33: Joshua Is Chosen Leader: Deuteronomy 31–Joshua 1

Comprehension Questions & Answers

Q1. What does the name 'Deuteronomy' mean, and what did God have Moses do in this book?

Answer: Deuteronomy means 'second law' or 'the second giving of the law.' God had Moses rehearse before the new generation of Israel the history of their fathers' failures and disobedience, go over the Law contract again (including its curses for disobedience), and exhort them not to repeat the sins of their rebellious fathers. It was God's way of giving this generation the chance to recognize their sinfulness and their absolute need for Him.

Q2. What was the 'additional covenant' God had Moses make with Israel in Deuteronomy 29, and why was it significant?

Answer: This was a covenant God made with Himself concerning Israel, in which He declared that He knew Israel would fail to keep the Law contract and come under its curses. But He promised that when they had gone through those hard lessons and cast themselves completely upon Him, He would be merciful and gracious to them — delivering them from their sinful selves and making them by His grace what His plan and purpose called for them to be. It was God's assurance that His purpose with Israel would ultimately prevail despite their failures.

Q3. Why did God have Moses teach Israel a special song, and what purpose would it serve in the future?

Answer: God Himself wrote this song and designed it to 'testify against them as a witness' in the future days when Israel would be experiencing all the curses of the Law contract (Deuteronomy 31:16-32:43). As the song was passed down from generation to generation it would serve as God's 'I told you so' — and more importantly, it would prick their hearts about their persistent sinfulness and direct them to cast themselves upon God's mercy and grace.

Q4. Why was Moses not permitted to lead Israel into the land, and how did he die?

Answer: Moses was not permitted to enter the land because of his own disobedience recorded in Numbers 20. God instructed him to go up onto Mount Nebo where He showed Moses the entire promised land, then God Himself caused Moses' soul and spirit to leave his body. God undertook to bury Moses' body, while his soul and spirit went to await his resurrection — at which time he will enter the land when God resumes His program with Israel.

Q5. What did God commission Joshua to do as Israel's new leader?

Answer: God commissioned Joshua to bring Israel into the promised land, to lead them in the conquest of it, and to divide the conquered land among the tribes for their inheritance (Joshua 1:1-9). Following this commission, Joshua gave the orders for the people to prepare themselves to enter the land, and the final preparations for the conquest of the LORD's land got underway.