

Exodus, Part 29

We are about to complete our study of the Israelites Exodus from Egypt. They are very near the end of their 40 years in the wilderness and about to enter the land that was promised to their forefathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Their first objective is just across the Jordan River from where they are camped, the city of Jericho, but that is for another study.

We will now sift from the Book of Numbers to Deuteronomy to complete our Exodus study. In Deuteronomy chapters 10-27, the Law is restated with a few new details and instructions added. Then in Deuteronomy 28 vividly we see both the negative consequences of disobedience to the covenant rules and the blessings of obedience. Deuteronomy 28 makes it abundantly clear that the Mosaic Covenant is a works-based, conditional covenant, “conditional” in that both man and God have obligations to meet under its terms. It provided for blessings if the Israelites followed the commandments of the Lord, and it provided for discipline, even severe, for failure to do so. Its purpose was to reveal God’s perfect righteousness and, in that process, define sin. It also served to prove to the Israelites (and to mankind) that the demands of God’s perfect righteousness could not be satisfied through human effort alone. It would take a power far greater than whatever man could muster—the power of God, specifically the indwelling Holy Spirit. Though hinted at in the Age of Israel under the Law, that detail would be fully revealed in the Age of Grace that followed.

It should also be recalled that the Law of Moses (or the Mosaic Covenant) was given to Israel alone and none others. The Church is not now and never was under the terms of the Mosaic Covenant.

Romans 6:14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

The Church operates under Grace, and sin has no “dominion” over us. The Greek word means “to exercise influence upon or to have power over.” We have the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit to resist sin, an asset the Israelites did not universally have under the Law. But to realize the benefits

of that power, we must make a free-will decision to use it. That takes faith expressed.

Israel under the Law, however, was required to obey the Law by human effort alone. If they met the terms of the Covenant, they received blessings and if not, they faced cursing.

Blessings

Deuteronomy 28:1 “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. ³ Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. ⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ⁵ Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶ Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

⁷ “The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. ⁸ The Lord will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ⁹ The Lord will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in his ways. ¹⁰ And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. ¹¹ And the Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. ¹² The Lord will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. ¹³ And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them, ¹⁴ and if you do not turn aside from any of the

words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

The Lord makes it clear that if Israel meets the terms of the Mosaic Covenant in every detail, they will be abundantly blessed in all aspects of life. They will be prosperous and safe from their enemies.

Remember, this is a contract, and God knows that no matter how diligent the Israelites are, they WILL inevitably commit sins. But the Lord made provisions in the terms of the Covenant for the sinning Israelite to find a form of judicial “blamelessness” (forgiveness) through its detailed animal sacrifices and offerings, thus meeting the terms of the Covenant and eligible to receive the blessings as stated above.

Cursings for Disobedience

Deuteronomy 28:15 “But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. ¹⁶ Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. ¹⁷ Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ¹⁸ Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ¹⁹ Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out. ²⁰ “The Lord will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me. ²¹ The Lord will make the pestilence stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ²² The Lord will strike you with wasting disease and with fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew. They shall pursue you until you perish. ²³ And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. ²⁴ The Lord will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed. ²⁵ “The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. ²⁶ And your

dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away. ²⁷ The Lord will strike you with the boils of Egypt, and with tumors and scabs and itch, of which you cannot be healed. ²⁸ The Lord will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of mind, ²⁹ and you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. And you shall be only oppressed and robbed continually, and there shall be no one to help you. ³⁰ You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall ravish her. You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it. You shall plant a vineyard, but you shall not enjoy its fruit. ³¹ Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat any of it. Your donkey shall be seized before your face, but shall not be restored to you. Your sheep shall be given to your enemies, but there shall be no one to help you. ³² Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and fail with longing for them all day long, but you shall be helpless. ³³ A nation that you have not known shall eat up the fruit of your ground and of all your labors, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually, ³⁴ so that you are driven mad by the sights that your eyes see. ³⁵ The Lord will strike you on the knees and on the legs with grievous boils of which you cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head.

³⁶ “The Lord will bring you and your king whom you set over you to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known. And there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone. ³⁷ And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where the Lord will lead you away. ³⁸ You shall carry much seed into the field and shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it. ³⁹ You shall plant vineyards and dress them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes, for the worm shall eat them. ⁴⁰ You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil, for your olives shall drop off. ⁴¹ You shall father sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours, for they shall go into captivity. ⁴² The cricket shall possess all your trees and the fruit of your ground. ⁴³ The sojourner who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. ⁴⁴ He shall lend to you, and you shall not lend to him. He shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.

⁴⁵ “All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the

Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you. ⁴⁶ They shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever. ⁴⁷ Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, ⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you. ⁴⁹ The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand, ⁵⁰ a hard-faced nation who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young. ⁵¹ It shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your ground, until you are destroyed; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have caused you to perish.

⁵² “They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land. And they shall besiege you in all your towns throughout all your land, which the Lord your God has given you. ⁵³ And you shall eat the fruit of your womb, the flesh of your sons and daughters, whom the Lord your God has given you, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemies shall distress you. ⁵⁴ The man who is the most tender and refined among you will begrudge food to his brother, to the wife he embraces, and to the last of the children whom he has left, ⁵⁵ so that he will not give to any of them any of the flesh of his children whom he is eating, because he has nothing else left, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in all your towns. ⁵⁶ The most tender and refined woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because she is so delicate and tender, will begrudge to the husband she embraces, to her son and to her daughter, ⁵⁷ her afterbirth that comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears, because lacking everything she will eat them secretly, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in your towns.

⁵⁸ “If you are not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, the Lord your God, ⁵⁹ then the Lord will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting. ⁶⁰ And he will bring upon you again all the diseases

of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. ⁶¹ Every sickness also and every affliction that is not recorded in the book of this law, the Lord will bring upon you, until you are destroyed. ⁶² Whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, you shall be left few in number, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God.

⁶³ And as the Lord took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the Lord will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you. And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

⁶⁴ “And the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. ⁶⁵ And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the Lord will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul. ⁶⁶ Your life shall hang in doubt before you. Night and day you shall be in dread and have no assurance of your life. ⁶⁷ In the morning you shall say, ‘If only it were evening!’ and at evening you shall say, ‘If only it were morning!’ because of the dread that your heart shall feel, and the sights that your eyes shall see. ⁶⁸ And the Lord will bring you back in ships to Egypt, a journey that I promised that you should never make again; and there you shall offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer.”

In verses 15 through 68, we get a disturbing picture of the wrath of God to be meted out on Israel if they fail to meet the terms of the Covenant. It includes famine, pestilence, invasion by other nations, and ultimately, the total destruction of the nation with its citizens being taken into slavery in a foreign land and the land that God gave them being occupied by others. This happened three times. The first was the destruction of the Northern Kingdom by the Assyrian empire due to idol worship, murder, and immorality. Then, the Babylonian Empire invaded and destroyed the Southern kingdom and took them into captivity, but they returned after 70 years. Lastly, the Roman Empire destroyed the nation in AD70 and took the Jews into captivity. This was for their failure under the Covenant and the fact that they rejected and murdered their Messiah. While under siege by the Romans, the citizens of Jerusalem resorted to eating their young infants to avoid starvation, just like verse 57 says.

But God is not finished with Israel. In all three cases, God has managed for Israel to maintain its national and cultural identity despite being scattered outside the land. The Lord restored them to the land after the Babylonian captivity and has also done so after the Roman diaspora with the re-establishment of the nation in 1948 when they were regathered after the Holocaust and placed in their land again. No other nation in history has experienced such destruction and yet been restored to their homeland after nearly two centuries with their religion and culture still intact. That alone clearly points to divine intervention.

The Palestinian Covenant

Within the Mosaic Covenant, we have the Palestinian Covenant. It is really a part of the greater Mosaic Covenant but significant enough to be given its own name. The Palestinian Covenant is also called the Land Grant Covenant because it deals exclusively with the terms of the covenant relating to the land being granted to Israel. Some identify it as a separate covenant, and others insist it is merely a sub-part of the Mosaic Covenant. Chapter 29 is a preliminary to the actual Palestinian Covenant, which is stated in the first ten verses of Chapter 30.

Deuteronomy 29:1 These are the words of the covenant that the Lord commanded Moses to make with the people of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant that he had made with them at Horeb.

The covenant at Mt Horeb was the Ten Commandments or the Mosaic Covenant. God is making this land-grant covenant with Israel in the “Land of Moab”. Keep in mind that the Palestinian Covenant is *unconditional* but the Israelite’s tenure in the land is *conditional*. It is theirs forever, but being allowed to remain in it is conditioned on obedience.

Deuteronomy 29:2 And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: “You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, ³ the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders. ⁴ But to this day the Lord has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.

Moses reminds the children of Israel of all the wonders the Lord has done for them—“But to this day the Lord has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.” They may be able to see with their eyes, but they are not seeing with their hearts. It doesn’t mean the Lord blinds them and will not permit them to understand. I think the reference is to faith. Even though they have seen and heard these things, they do not yet fully have faith in the Lord (the heart) to make what is seen and heard real.

Deuteronomy 29:5 I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn off your feet. ⁶ You have not eaten bread, and you have not drunk wine or strong drink, that you may know that I am the Lord your God. ⁷ And when you came to this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan came out against us to battle, but we defeated them. ⁸ We took their land and gave it for an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of the Manassites. ⁹ Therefore keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do. ¹⁰ “You are standing today, all of you, before the Lord your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel, ¹¹ your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, ¹² so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the Lord your God, which the Lord your God is making with you today, ¹³ that he may establish you today as his people, and that he may be your God, as he promised you, and as he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. ¹⁴ It is not with you alone that I am making this sworn covenant, ¹⁵ but with whoever is standing here with us today before the Lord our God, and with whoever is not here with us today. ¹⁶ “You know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the midst of the nations through which you passed. ¹⁷ And you have seen their detestable things, their idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold, which were among them. ¹⁸ Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the Lord our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit, ¹⁹ one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my

heart.’ This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike. ²⁰ The Lord will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the Lord and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book will settle upon him, and the Lord will blot out his name from under heaven. ²¹ And the Lord will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for calamity, in accordance with all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law. ²² And the next generation, your children who rise up after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, will say, when they see the afflictions of that land and the sicknesses with which the Lord has made it sick— ²³ the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew in his anger and wrath— ²⁴ all the nations will say, ‘Why has the Lord done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?’ ²⁵ Then people will say, ‘It is because they abandoned the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, ²⁶ and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them. ²⁷ Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this book, ²⁸ and the Lord uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.’

²⁹ “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

A day will come when “the foreigner who comes from a far land, will say, when they see the afflictions of that land and the sicknesses with which the Lord has made it sick ... ‘Why has the Lord done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?’” (Deuteronomy 29:22-24).

Moses warns that disobedience to the Covenant will affect both the people and the land. This is actually a prediction. Until the Jews moved back into the land after 1948, it was desolate and barren, as seen in these passages. Today, it is alive and green again.

Deuteronomy 30:1 “And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, ² and return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, ³ then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. ⁴ If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there he will take you. ⁵ And the Lord your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. ⁶ And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. ⁷ And the Lord your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you. ⁸ And you shall again obey the voice of the Lord and keep all his commandments that I command you today. ⁹ The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers, ¹⁰ when you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

These 10 verses are a picture of the ultimate fulfillment of the Palestinian Covenant. It begins with the statement in verse 1 “And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you....” After that, “then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you” (Deuteronomy 30:3). This is a clear picture of the ultimate fulfillment of the Palestinian Covenant that will happen during the Kingdom Age after the Tribulation. Israel will be regathered “from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you” (v.3). Yes, there has been a regathering in the land since 1948, but that is not the fulfillment seen in these passages. There are many Jews still

living outside of Israel. After the Tribulation, *all* Jews will be regathered into the land God has promised them. That will be the beginning of the long-promised Kingdom Age we call the Millennium as promised in Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Jeremiah 32:37 Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety. ³⁸ And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. ³⁹ I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. ⁴⁰ I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. ⁴¹ I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

That is how and when the Palestinian Covenant will be fulfilled and what makes it unconditional.

The Choice of Life and Death

Deuteronomy 30:11 “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear

it and do it?’ ¹⁴ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

The Law was not incomprehensible or inaccessible. Though the Law had a heavenly origin God clearly revealed it to Israel so there was no need for anyone to ascend into heaven to get it nor did anyone need to travel across an ocean to get it. Nor did Israel need a special interpreter of the Law before they could obey it. The Law was already written down and Israel had been familiar with its demands in the wilderness. So Moses could say that the word is very near you. They could speak it (it is in your mouth) and they knew it (it is in your heart).

Romans 10:6 But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);

Paul’s use of verse Deuteronomy 30:14 in Romans 10:6–8 was based on the fact that Christ fulfilled the Law and is the only Person to have lived perfectly by it.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. ⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.

Just as the Law was a gracious revelation of God’s righteousness, so Christ, who perfectly embodied all that is in the Law, was graciously given by the Father. This word about Christ is therefore at hand (“near you,” Rom. 10:8) so no one need bring Christ from heaven or bring Him from the dead for He already has become incarnate and ascended.

The statement concerning “doing” the commandments and “thus live” refers not to salvation but to experiencing a vitally alive spiritual life here on earth.

Deuteronomy 30:15 “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God

that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Moses shifts to speaking about his time and says that if you obey the commandments of the Lord “then you shall live and multiply” (v. 16). Moses never taught the Israelites that they were *justified* by obeying the Law. Early in his first book, he stated that Abraham was *justified by faith* in the Lord (Gen. 15:6). Here the context is that Moses is speaking to Israelites *under the Law*. In this case, the reference to “you shall live” (v.16) is not to salvation but to living a *physical life* versus dying because of their failure to obey. Such failure would mean, “You shall not live long in the land” (v.18). But if their “heart turns away” from God, they “shall surely die” (vv. 17, 18).

The Death of Moses

Deuteronomy 34:1 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, ² all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, ³ the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. ⁴ And the Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, ‘I will give it to your offspring.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.”

Moses went up on Mount Nebo as the Lord told him to do. The places Moses viewed start in the north and follow to the south in a counterclockwise direction. Though one could not normally view the western sea (the Mediterranean) from Mount Nebo, perhaps Moses was supernaturally enabled by the Lord to do so.

God's mention of the oath reminded Moses that even though he was not allowed to lead the people into the Promised Land, God would still be faithful to His promise to the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and bring Israel into her new land.

Deuteronomy 34:5 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 the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. ⁷ Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. ⁸ And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

Though Moses was being disciplined for his act of unbelief (Num. 20:1–13) by not being allowed to enter the Promised Land, he died in faith and as an honored servant of the Lord. Moses was so special that his last moments on earth were spent in intimate fellowship with God, who then permitted no human to take part in his burial, for the Lord Himself buried him. It is possible to translate the clause “He buried him” as “he *was* buried,” meaning that men, not God, buried him. However, the statement “but no one knows the place of his burial to this day” indicates that either the Lord alone or through the agency of His angels buried Moses. Jude (v. 9) also seems to confirm this interpretation. Moses' burial site, though unknown, was somewhere in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor. This was the valley where the Israelites camped while Moses gave them the instructions and blessings recorded in Deuteronomy chapters 5–33. The Israelites mourned for 30 days; the normal time of mourning a dead loved one was 7 days.

Deuteronomy 34:9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses. ¹⁰ And there

has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, ¹¹ none like him for all the signs and the wonders that 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 for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

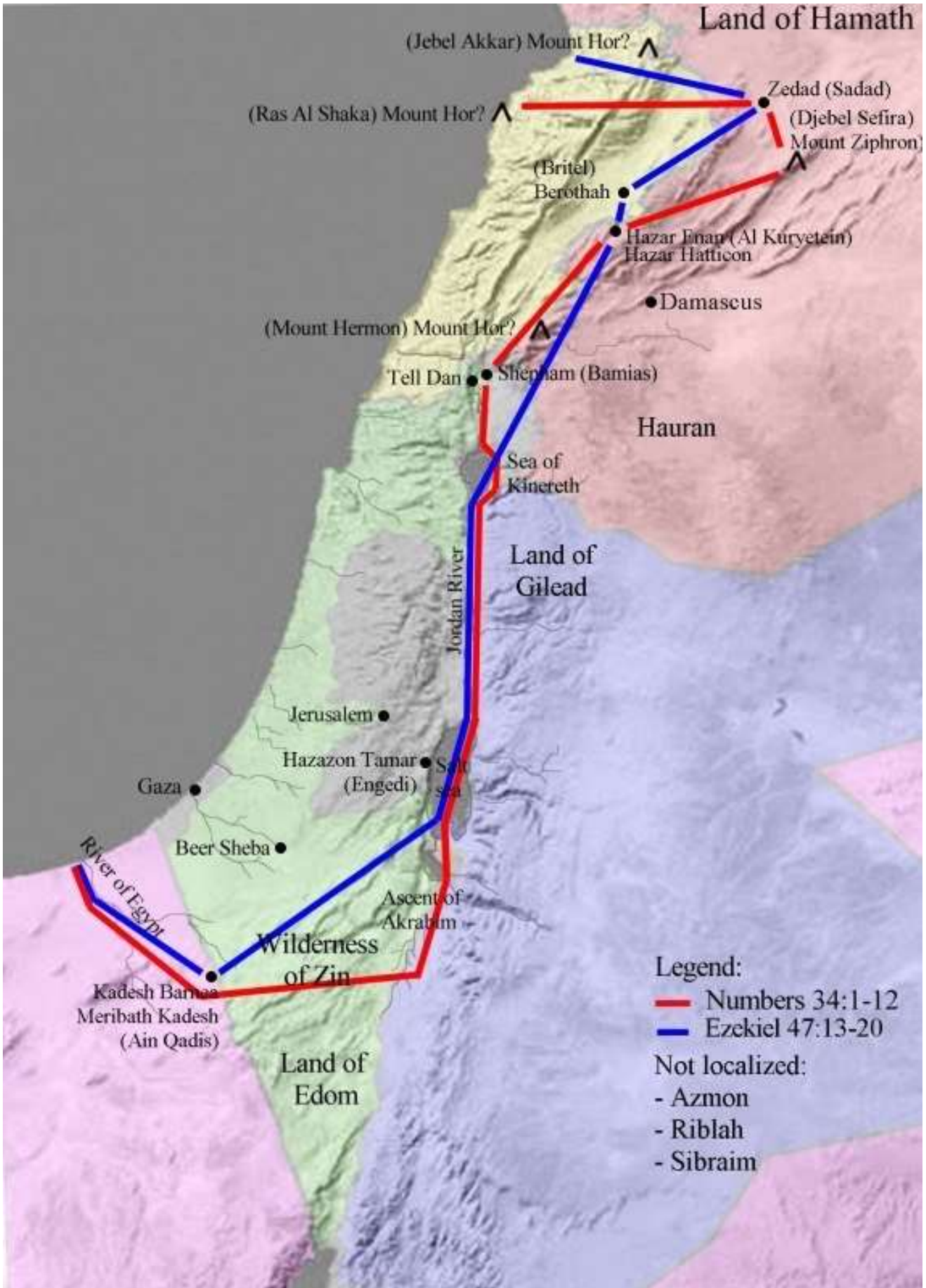
Then Joshua was filled with the spirit of wisdom. This accompanied Moses' commissioning of him (31:7). "The spirit of wisdom" refers to the Holy Spirit. God gave Joshua supernatural skills for leading the Israelites. This would be a case of OT enduement of the Spirit.

Moses was unique among all the prophets for his intimacy with the Lord, whom the Lord knew face to face as a friend; (cf. Ex. 33:11; Num. 12:8) and for his miraculous signs and wonders, mighty power, and awesome deeds. He introduced a new era into the history of God's people, the Age of the Law that extended all the way to the time of Christ.

The Israelites waited for God to raise up a Prophet like Moses (18:15). Thus, the book ends on a prophetic note, looking forward to the day when "another Moses" would be given to Israel. That day finally arrived when the Lord Jesus Christ came as a Servant and as the very Son of God, surpassing even Moses (cf. Heb. 3:1–6). He offered to take Israel into a new era, the Age of Grace, but the Israelites culminated centuries of rebellion by rejecting that gracious offer. However, God will heal and avenge His people.

Deuteronomy 32:43 "Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods, for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries. He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people's land."

END



The Land's Borders

Numbers 34:1 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Command the people of Israel, and say to them, When you enter the land of Canaan (this is the land that shall fall to you for an inheritance, the land of Canaan as defined by its borders), ³ your south side shall be from the wilderness of Zin alongside Edom, and your southern border shall run from the end of the Salt Sea on the east. ⁴ And your border shall turn south of the ascent of Akrabbim, and cross to Zin, and its limit shall be south of Kadesh-barnea. Then it shall go on to Hazar-addar, and pass along to Azmon. ⁵ And the border shall turn from Azmon to the Brook of Egypt, and its limit shall be at the sea.

⁶“For the western border, you shall have the Great Sea and its coast. This shall be your western border.

⁷“This shall be your northern border: from the Great Sea you shall draw a line to Mount Hor. ⁸ From Mount Hor you shall draw a line to Lebo-hamath, and the limit of the border shall be at Zedad. ⁹ Then the border shall extend to Ziphron, and its limit shall be at Hazar-enan. This shall be your northern border.

¹⁰“You shall draw a line for your eastern border from Hazar-enan to Shepham. ¹¹ And the border shall go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain. And the border shall go down and reach to the shoulder of the Sea of Chinnereth on the east. ¹² And the border shall go down to the Jordan, and its limit shall be at the Salt Sea. This shall be your land as defined by its borders all around.”

¹³ Moses commanded the people of Israel, saying, “This is the land that you shall inherit by lot, which the Lord has commanded to give to the nine tribes and to the half-tribe. ¹⁴ For the tribe of the people of Reuben by fathers' houses and the tribe of the people of Gad by their fathers' houses have received their inheritance, and also the half-tribe of Manasseh. ¹⁵ The two tribes and the half-tribe have received their inheritance beyond the Jordan east of Jericho, toward the sunrise.”