

## *Exodus Study and Discussion Questions*

### *Lesson Twelve: Moses' Last Words and Death – Deuteronomy 27-34*

Skim Deuteronomy 27-28. In Deuteronomy 27-30, Moses gave instructions for the formal ratification of Israel's covenant with the Lord (the ceremony itself did not take place until after the new generation of Israelites crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land).

- 1) Describe the preparations that were to be made for the ceremony (see Deuteronomy 27:1-13).
  
- 2) Consider why it would have been important to have an altar in close proximity to the plaster-coated stones and record your thoughts.
  
- 3) Skim through the blessings and curses in Deuteronomy 27:15-28:68. The results of the curses (chapter 28) are frightening and utterly devastating. Have you ever warned someone by detailing possible outcomes of negative behavior? If so, what motivated you to do this? How does this influence your thinking about the passage detailing curses – a passage that, according to some people, portrays God as harsh and unloving? See the train of thought contained in Leviticus 26:14-19, 21, 23-24, 27-28, and 40-42 with Proverbs 3:11-12.

Skim Deuteronomy 29-30.

- 4) According to Deuteronomy 29:16-18, what was the nature of the “root” (verse 18) Israel carried with them out of Egypt – a root that was fertilized by their exposure to foreign nations during their years of desert wandering? Attempt to explain verse 19 in light of this.
  
- 5) What opportunity did the Lord present in Deuteronomy 30:1-10 (see also Psalm 32:5 and 1 John 1:9)?
  
- 6) Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20 carefully. Moses stated that two paths are available – one leading to life and prosperity, another to death and destruction.
  - a) In what sense was the Law life-giving?

- b) Was the Law itself what would ultimately bring life and prosperity (see also Galatians 3:21)?
- c) If not, how would the Israelites find life (give references from the passage)?
- d) For prayerful reflection: Would people who know you say they are drawn to you because you are full of life? How does one find, and then reflect, true life to others (see Deuteronomy 30:20 with Matthew 22:36-38)? Write a brief prayer expressing your need in this regard.

Skim Deuteronomy 31-32.

- 7) Why do you think Deuteronomy 31:1-8 and 23 emphasize the need to be “strong and courageous”? For what task do you need to be strong and courageous right now?
- 8) According to Deuteronomy 31:9-13, what provision was made to ensure each succeeding generation would know the full Law?
- 9) If you are familiar enough with Biblical history to do so, tell how the Song of Moses (Deuteronomy 32) was prophetic (cite particular verses in the chapter).
- 10) In Deuteronomy 32:15, “Jeshurun” is probably righteous Israel. What warning does this verse contain for the righteous (believers) in the country where you live?

**11)** Read Deuteronomy 32:34-35, 41-42 together with Isaiah 34:1-2, 66:15-16 and Revelation 19:11-16, 20:11-15. What is God's righteous response to those in every age who disregard Him?

Skim Deuteronomy 33-34.

**12)** Moses' blessing of the tribes contains timeless truths about the Lord's relationship to His people. Which verse in chapter 33 is especially meaningful to you and why?

**13)** Deuteronomy 34 tells of Moses' death. Read Psalm 90 (the affixed title suggests that Moses wrote it).

a) How would you describe the two different perspectives on life the Psalm reflects?

b) Has one of these perspectives characterized your thinking recently?

c) Consider the glowing eulogy in Deuteronomy 34:10-12, in light of the struggles Moses poured out in Psalm 90. In what specific struggle does this encourage you and how?

Reflection

**14)** The Law of Moses became the standard by which righteousness was measured in Judaism. According to Romans 3:19-20, 5:20-21, Galatians 3:19, 23-25 and 1 Timothy 1:8-11, what was the real purpose of the Law?

**15)** Read Deuteronomy 30:1 and 32:46. What will be required of you today if you choose to take the word of God to heart? If you're not sure, will you ask God to show you?