

Deuteronomy 34 New International Version

The Death of Moses

34 Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, ²all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, ³the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. ⁴Then the Lord said to him, “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.”

⁵And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. ⁶He buried him^[a] in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. ⁷Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. ⁸The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

⁹Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit^[b] of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.

¹⁰Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, ¹¹who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. ¹²For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Matthew 22:34-46 New International Version

The Greatest Commandment

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’^[a] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[b] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Whose Son Is the Messiah?

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴² “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

“The son of David,” they replied.

⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’? For he says,

⁴⁴ “‘The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand
until I put your enemies
under your feet.’”^[c]

⁴⁵ If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions

October 25, 2026

Deuteronomy 34:1–12

Matthew 22:34–46

Sermon: Faithful to the End

I used to read obituaries. It is interesting to read what family members say about their departed loved ones. They usually write about their relationships with family and friends, their careers, and their favorite activities and hobbies. I like to read the obituaries of others because someday someone—probably one of my family members—will write my obituary. What will I be remembered for?

The important point is not what others or my family members say about me in my obituary, but what God would say if He wrote my obituary and yours.

In our Old Testament reading, you heard what God writes in Moses' obituary: "Moses, my servant, died in Moab, and I buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, and he was 120 years old." We live in a culture obsessed with the finish line. We measure success by whether we get to occupy the first seat, walk across the stage, or personally reap the harvest of our hard work.

When Moses died, the Lord described him as "my servant."

Being a servant of the Lord is considered the highest honor one can receive from the Lord. The Lord gave that title to Moses because it describes his intimate, trusted relationship with the Creator rather than a position of human status.

In ancient royal courts, a king's personal servant or steward held more power, access, and trust than ordinary citizens. Being God's servant meant that Moses operated as a direct agent of the King of the Universe.

When Scripture summarizes Moses' life in verse 5 of our Old Testament reading, it bypasses his worldly or religious titles, such as prince of Egypt, miracle worker, or supreme lawgiver, and chooses "servant of the Lord" as

his title. The Hebrew meaning of “servant of the Lord” conveys active labor and submission.

Moses lived for 120 years: the first 40 years growing up as Egyptian royalty in Pharaoh’s palace, the next 40 years as a humble shepherd in the wilderness, and the final 40 years leading the Israelites through the desert.

God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt because of his unique background, strong sense of justice, and humility. Raised as a prince in Pharaoh’s household, Moses learned Egyptian politics, culture, and leadership from the inside, giving him the ability to confront Pharaoh directly. God used him to liberate Israel from Pharaoh’s bondage. Moses was a mediator between the Lord and the people. He guided God’s people through the wilderness. He stood in the gap as an intercessor between a holy God and God’s people. The Bible says that God spoke to Moses “face to face, clearly and not in riddles.” He was faithful in all the Lord’s house (Numbers 12:8).

Moses was raised as a child of two races and struggled with his identity. He was not a superhero; he was an ordinary person. He had a speech impediment. In the Bible, Moses describes himself as slow of speech and slow of tongue. He resisted his mission, stating that he had never been eloquent. He was not a superhero. He was simply an imperfect human being who went from riches to rags and was redeemed by God to liberate and rescue Israel.

Moses was a political and religious leader, lawmaker, judge, prophet, priest, poet, prince, shepherd, miracle worker, and founder of a liberated nation.

Moses forever stands as a beacon of hope, faith, courage, and commitment. He refused to compromise. He stood firm in the face of adversity and suffering. He led his people from the impossible to the possible through faith in God and ultimately gave his life so that others might enter the Promised Land.

When Moses died at the age of 120, the Lord buried him, and all Israel wept. Although Moses did not enter the Promised Land, he prepared others

to enter the land of Canaan. He trained and anointed Joshua, a young man, and handed over the mantle of leadership to him. Moses lived in hope, and God did not disappoint him: Moses entered the glory of God.

Moses lived by faith. The Book of Hebrews 11 says, “By faith Moses led the people, and they passed through the Red Sea as on dry land.”

Moses held fast to God and drew strength and courage from the Lord through prayer. He was an intercessor. When God’s people broke the first commandment by making an image of a golden calf and began to worship it, the Lord was about to destroy them. Moses interceded for them and asked God to forgive them. Then the Lord forgave them and allowed them to continue their journey.

Moses’ life tells us never to be discouraged. Hold fast to God, draw strength and encouragement from the wisdom found in the Bible, and talk to God in prayer.

When Moses asked the Lord to show him His glory, the Lord replied that Moses could not see His face, but He showed him a glimpse of His glory as He passed before him. Years later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them to a high mountain. There, He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun. At that time, Moses and Elijah appeared and witnessed the glory of Jesus. Moses’ prayer, “Show me Your glory,” was answered.

At the age of 120, Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. He was physically strong enough to climb the mountain, and his eyesight was 20/20 without eyeglasses.

The Lord certifies in Moses’ résumé: “No prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.” When it comes to the end, what matters is not how much you know about God, but how much God knows you. The Bible says, “The man who loves God is known by God” (1 Corinthians 8:3).

At the end of the day, when God says, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these servants of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40), that is how God comes to know you and me face to face.

People may forget your good deeds, but God never will. Sometimes we may wonder whether our good deeds matter or will ever be acknowledged.

Hebrews 6:10 says, “God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” These words reassure us that God, who blesses a faithful life, will never forget our acts of kindness and service.

God has a perfect memory, and He sees, knows, and remembers every act of obedience done in His name. Our God is just and faithful. He takes note and rewards you. He is faithful to His promises. When Moses died, the Lord raised up Joshua and filled him with His spirit and wisdom. God’s work continues without interruption.

When Moses died at the age of 120, the Lord said, “My servant Moses died in Moab.” We remember Moses as a servant of God.

What will you be remembered for? You and I will be remembered for what we do in our lives for God and God’s work. Faithfulness may not always make headlines, but it always matters to God. May the Lord continue to help you do so. Amen.

Pastor Thomas