

## THE MOUNTAINS OF MOSES

Text: Exodus 3:1

INTRO: There are many of us for whom mountains hold a certain fascination. In the Bible, mountains are sometimes used figuratively to illustrate power and stability. In our common language, hills and mountains are sometimes used to illustrate difficulties.

Moses' life has been examined from many perspectives. In this lesson, we will look at Moses' life as it centers around the mountains with which he is identified.

### I. MT. SINAI OR HOREB--THE MOUNTAIN OF REVELATION AND RESPONSIBILITY.

- A. God revealed Himself to Moses. READ EXODUS 3:1-12.
- B. Later, on this same mountain, God gave the 10 Commandments to Moses.

### II. MT. SEIR--THE MOUNTAIN OF UNIVERSAL PROVIDENCE.

Then we turned & journeyed into the wilderness of the Way of the Red Sea, as the LORD spoke to me, & we skirted Mount Seir for many days. And the LORD spoke to me, saying: 'You have skirted this mountain long enough; turn northward. And command the people, saying, "You are about to pass through the territory of your brethren, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir; & they will be afraid of you. Therefore watch yourselves carefully. Do not meddle with them, for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as one footstep, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession... We turned & passed by way of the Wilderness of Moab. Then the LORD said to me, 'Do not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession. (Deut. 2:1-6, 8-9)

### III. MT HOR--THE MOUNTAIN OF GRIEF AND HOPE.

- A. Before reading about Mt. Hor & what happened there, we must note an event that had occurred at Kadesh.

READ NUMBERS 20:2-12

B. On an earlier occasion, Moses had been instructed to strike the rock, EX 17:6, but this time he was not authorized to do so.

C. Three men make a sad procession upon Mt. Hor, knowing that only two will return, NUMBERS 20:22-29.

1. The sadness of the occasion is somewhat mitigated by the knowledge that Eleazar will be permitted to take up where Aaron has left off. All that has happened has not been in vain--Israel will yet possess the land of promise.

2. Even as Moses descends from Mt. Hor, he knows he has one more mountain to climb--for he, too, will be denied the privilege of entering Canaan.

Aaron was 123 years old when he died on Mt. Hor. (Num. 33:39).

#### IV. MT. NEBO OR PISGAH--THE MOUNTAIN OF SADNESS AND REAPING.

A. Knowing that as a result of his sin at Kadesh, he will not be permitted to enter Canaan, Moses, yet continues to faithfully serve God, and God gives the Israelites a great victory at Hormah, & permits them to defeat King Sihon of the Amorites & King Og of Bashan.

B. God punishes the Israelites for rebelling against Moses by sending poisonous snakes among them.

C. Moses admonishes the people to remain faithful in their service to God, and paves the way for Joshua to succeed him in leading them to the promised land.  
READ DEUTERONOMY 31:1-8.

D. Finally, God permits Moses to see a panoramic view of all the land of promise--but even though there is much evidence that Moses has been forgiven for his sin, its physical & temporal consequences will not be

removed. Moses, who has so often served as an example to Israel, must now be an example of the law of sowing and reaping.

READ DEUTOROMOMY 32:48-52; 34:1-8.

E. And so Nebo or Pisgah would seem to be Moses' last mountain--but No There is one more.

#### V. THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION--THE MOUNTAIN OF VICTORY.

READ MARK 9:2-9.

A. This mountain has not been positively identified. It is useless to speculate as to which mountain it was.

B. I am convinced, however, that in this incident we have infallible proof that Moses had been forgiven for his sin at Kadesh.

C. Moses finally made it to Canaan's land--but now it was an anticlimax. He had already been for centuries in a better land than Canaan. And when, in the better land, the redeemed of God sing the Song of Moses and the Lamb, Moses will be there with the Lamb of God who has taken away our sins. Elijah will be there. And we, too, will be there if we will obey God & faithfully serve Him while we live upon the earth in the time He has allotted us.

And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, & those who have the victory over the beast, over his image & over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, & the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

(Rev. 15:2-4).

Exton, PA, May 6, 1990

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, July 15, 1990

Lancaster County, PA, August 19, 1990

Tri-State, Ashland, KY, June 27, 1991 (meeting)

Wrightsville, PA, April 13, 1992 (meeting)

La Porte, TX, May 4, 1992 (meeting)

Hyde Park, PA, September 21, 2001 (meeting)

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 23, 2001

Jonestown, TX, May 31, 2004 (meeting)