

## Sermon Notes | Choose Jesus! - Deuteronomy 33 - 34

### Deuteronomy Overview: Choose God

- A. A Review of the Past (1-4)
- B. Requirements for the Present (5-26)
- C. Readiness for the Future (27-34)

### I. We are Most like God when we Love Others (33:1)

**33** This is the **blessing** with which Moses the **man of God** blessed the people of Israel before his death.

#### *How can I love others well?*

### II. We are Deeply Loved by God (33:2-5)

<sup>2</sup> He said, "**The Lord came** from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us; he **shone forth** from Mount Paran; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand. <sup>3</sup> Yes, **he loved** his people, all **his holy ones** were in his hand; so they **followed** in your steps, receiving direction from you,...

### III. God's Covenant Faithfulness Lets us Walk in our Unique Role (Deut. 33:6-29)

#### REUBEN (6)

<sup>6</sup> "Let **Reuben** live, and not die, but let his men be few."

#### SIMEON - *not mentioned*

**Genesis 49:5-7**- "Simeon and Levi...weapons of violence...I will scatter them in Israel."

#### JUDAH (7) "scepter will not depart..." (Genesis 49:10)

<sup>7</sup> And this he said of **Judah**: "Hear, O Lord, the voice of Judah, and bring him in to his people. With your hands contend for him, and be a help against his adversaries."

#### LEVI (8-11)

<sup>8</sup> And of **Levi** he said, "Give to Levi your **Thummim**, and your **Urim** to your **godly one**, whom you **tested** at Massah, ... For they observed your word and kept your covenant. <sup>10</sup> They shall **teach** Jacob your rules and Israel your law; they shall put **incense** before you and whole **burnt offerings** on your altar. <sup>11</sup> Bless, O Lord, his substance, ...

#### BENJAMIN (12)

<sup>12</sup> Of **Benjamin** he said, "The beloved of the Lord dwells in safety. The High God surrounds him all day long, and dwells between his shoulders."

#### JOSEPH (13-14)

<sup>13</sup> And of **Joseph** he said, "Blessed by the Lord be his land, with the choicest gifts of heaven ...the deep ..., <sup>14</sup> ...the choicest fruits of the sun ... finest produce ... best gifts of the earth...they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh."

#### ZEBULUN & ISSACHAR (18-19)

<sup>18</sup> And of **Zebulun** he said, "**Rejoice**, Zebulun, **in your going out**, and **Issachar**, in your **tents**.  
<sup>19</sup> They shall call peoples to their mountain; there they offer right sacrifices; for they draw from the abundance of the seas and the hidden treasures of the sand."

#### **GAD (20-21)**

<sup>20</sup> And of **Gad** he said, "Blessed be he who enlarges Gad! Gad crouches like a lion; he tears off arm and scalp. <sup>21</sup> He chose the best of the land for himself, for there a commander's portion was reserved; and he came with the heads of the people, with Israel he executed the justice of the Lord, and his judgments for Israel."

**DAN (22)** "serpent by the road" (Genesis 49:17)

<sup>22</sup> And of **Dan** he said, "Dan is a lion's cub that leaps from Bashan."

#### **NAPHTALI (23)**

<sup>23</sup> And of **Naphtali** he said, "O Naphtali, sated with favor, and full of the blessing of the Lord, possess the lake and the south."

#### **ASHER (24)**

<sup>24</sup> And of **Asher** he said, "Most blessed of sons be Asher; ...let him dip his **foot in oil**... The eternal God is your **dwelling place**, and underneath are the **everlasting arms**..."

### **III. God's Covenant Faithfulness Lets us Walk in our Unique Role (Deut. 33:6-29)**

"Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord." (Deut. 33:29)

Church: "...holy nation, a people belonging to God". (1 Peter 2:9)

### **IV. Jesus Fills the Void Within! (Deuteronomy 34)**

**34** Then Moses went up ...top of Pisgah, ... the Lord showed him all the land, ... <sup>4</sup> 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."

### **IV. Jesus Fills the Void Within! (Deuteronomy 34)**

<sup>10</sup> And there has **not arisen a prophet since** in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew **face to face**, <sup>11</sup> none like him for all the **signs** and the **wonders** ... <sup>12</sup> and for all the **mighty power** and all the **great deeds** of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

#### **Deuteronomy 18:15**

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen."

**Mount of Transfiguration:** Voice of God (Matthew 17:5b)

"This is my beloved son; ...it is to Him you shall listen."

**Big Idea: Choose Jesus!!**

## Discussion Guide | Choose Jesus! - Deuteronomy 33 - 34

### Big Idea: Choose Jesus

**1. Read Deuteronomy 33:1** and discuss the fact that Moses chose to bless every tribe even though the people had been stubborn, rebellious, grumblers, idolaters and that they almost succeeded in a revolt against him.

Share an account of how hard it is to love those who have hurt you.

**2. Read Deuteronomy 33:2-5** and discuss why God could say, "He loved His people...His holy ones..." knowing they would reject Him.

What are the implications of that? Why is it hard for us to accept that God loves us perpetually?

**3. From Deuteronomy 33:6-26**, take turns sharing your observations from each tribe of uniqueness, virtue, failure, and favor from God.

How have you seen God's covenant faithfulness in your life despite your failures? Discuss.

**4. Deuteronomy 34** describes the death of Moses, and the future prediction of a prophet like Him (see also **Deut. 18:15**). Both Peter and Stephen (**Acts 3&7**) affirm that Jesus is the fulfillment of that.

Moses	Jesus
Saved from slavery through the Red Sea	Saved us from slavery by death on the cross.
High Priest who mediates for the people	Jesus, who is our mediator to God.
Leader who displays power and authority	Jesus, who is our coming King.

How deeply have you allowed God's great love for you to trickle down into your heart?

Spend a few moments praying together for God to reveal in a new way how much He loves you.

Use **Ephesians 3:14-19** as a guide for your prayer.