### Deuteronomy

## Chapter 31

1Well, after Moses had finished telling the children of IsraEl all these things, he said:  
  
 2‘I’m 120 years old today, and I won’t be able to [lead] you anymore. For Jehovah has told me that I may not cross the JorDan.  
  
 3‘However, Jehovah your God will continue to walk before you… He will destroy the nations before you and you’ll inherit them.  
  
 ‘And He told me that JoShua will now lead you.  
  
 4‘Jehovah your God will do the same things to [those nations] that He did to the two Amorite kings, SeOn and Og, and to their land on [this side] of the JorDan, when He destroyed them... 5Jehovah has given them to you, and you must do all that I’ve said you must do to them.  
  
 6‘So, be courageous and strong! Don’t be afraid or act cowardly… Don’t let them scare you!  
  
 ‘For Jehovah your God is marching with you and among you, and He won’t forget you or leave you!’  
  
  
7Then Moses called JoShua and said to him before all IsraEl:  
  
 ‘You must be courageous and strong, for now you must lead these people into the land that Jehovah swore to your ancestors that He would give to them as their inheritance.  
  
 8‘Jehovah will be going with you, and He won’t forsake you or abandon you – so, don’t be timid or afraid!’  
  
  
9Then Moses wrote the words of this Law in a scroll and gave it to the priests (those sons of Levi who bear the Chest of Jehovah’s Sacred Agreement) and to the elders of the sons of IsraEl.  
  
10And then Moses told them this:  
  
 ‘After 7 years, during the Year of Release and on the Feast of Temporary Structures 11when all IsraEl assembles before Jehovah your God in the place that Jehovah will choose; you must read this Law so that all IsraEl can hear it.  
  
 12‘The whole assembly – the men, the women, the children, and any converts who are living in your cities – must all hear it, so that they may learn to fear Jehovah your God and to obey all the words of this Law.  
  
 13‘Also, the sons that haven’t [been born yet] must hear it and learn to fear Jehovah your God for as long as they live in the land that you’re crossing the JorDan to inherit.’  
  
  
14Then the Lord said to Moses:  
  
 ‘Look; the day of your death has arrived.  
  
 ‘Now, call JoShua and go stand at the entrance to the Tent of Proofs, where l can [explain things] to him.’  
  
So, Moses and JoShua went to the Tent of Proofs and stood at the entrance... 15Then the Lord descended in a cloud and stood next to the entrance in a column of clouds.  
  
16And He said to Moses:  
  
 ‘{Look!} [It’s time] for you to go to sleep with your ancestors.  
  
 ‘However, from among these people [some] will arise who will commit adultery with the strange gods of the land that they’ll be entering… They’ll leave Me and break the Sacred Agreement that I made with them.  
  
 17‘And when that happens, I’ll be very angry with them and I’ll leave them… I’ll turn My face away from them and they’ll thereafter be devoured.  
  
 ‘But, after many bad things and plagues have come upon them, they’ll [finally] say:  
  
 ‘These bad things have happened to us because Jehovah our God isn’t with us!’  
  
 18‘However, I’ll still just look away, because of all the wicked and evil things that they’ll do, and because they’ll have turned to other gods.  
  
 19‘Now, write the words of this song and teach it to the children of IsraEl… Have them learn to sing it, so this song may testify about Me to the faces of the children of IsraEl. 20For I’m bringing them into the good land that I swore to their ancestors that I’d give to them… A land flowing with milk and honey.  
  
 ‘But, after they’ve eaten and are full and satisfied, they’ll turn and follow other gods and serve them… They’ll break their Sacred Agreement with Me and anger Me. 21And it’s this song that will stand as a witness against them, because they won’t forget it, nor will their offspring ever forget it!  
  
 ‘For, I’ve known how wicked they are and of the wicked things that they’ll do long before I brought them to this good land that I promised to their ancestors.’  
  
  
22So Moses wrote the song that day, which he would thereafter teach to the children of IsraEl. 23Then he spoke to JoShua and said:  
  
 ‘Be courageous and strong, because you’re now going to lead the sons of IsraEl into the land that Jehovah promised to them… And He will be with you!’  
  
24It was then that Moses finished writing the words of this Law all the way to the end. 25And thereafter, he gave these instructions to the Levites who bear the Chest of the Sacred Agreement of Jehovah, saying:  
  
 26‘Take this scroll of the Law and put it inside the Chest of the Sacred Agreement of your God Jehovah, so it’ll [always] be there among you as a testimony.  
  
 27‘Oh, I know how irritating and rebellious [these people] can be; for, throughout my life with them – down to this day – they’ve been provoking God by the ways that they act.  
  
 ‘So, how can I expect them to be any different after my death?  
  
 28‘Now, gather all the heads of your tribes, as well as your elders, judges, and officers, so that I can speak all these words into their ears as I call the land and the sky as witnesses against them.  
  
 29‘For I know that after my death they’ll become very sinful and turn from the ways that I’ve commanded them [to follow]… Then bad things will eventually happen to them because they’ll make their God Jehovah angry with all the evil things that they’ll do.’  
  
And thereafter, Moses spoke the words of this song, teaching it to the whole gathering: