

Deut. 3:23-29

*"I also pleaded with the Lord at that time, saying, <sup>24</sup> 'O Lord God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your strong hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as Yours?'<sup>25</sup> Let me, I pray, cross over and see the fair land that is beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon.' <sup>26</sup> But the Lord was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me; and the Lord said to me, 'Enough! Speak to Me no more of this matter. <sup>27</sup> Go up to the top of Pisgah and lift up your eyes to the west and north and south and east, and see it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan. <sup>28</sup> But charge Joshua and encourage him and strengthen him, for he shall go across at the head of this people, and he will give them as an inheritance the land which you will see.' <sup>29</sup> So we remained in the valley opposite Beth-peor.*

Verse by verse:

- I. The request of Moses
  - a. Verse 23 is picking up after the conquering of king Og of Bashan.
  - b. Between verses 12-22 Moses reviews how he had distributed the land east of the Jordan to Reuben, Gad and Manasseh.
  - c. In verses 21-22 we see a wonderful exhortation to Joshua. Verse 22: "The Lord your God is the One fighting for you."
  - d. We come to verses 23-29 and we see Moses' request.
  - e. This is the second time that Moses reflects back on the incident from Numbers 20:9-12. see Deut 1:37
  - f. Verse 23 we see the intro to Moses' pleading with the Lord. Lord is translated from YAHWEH.
  - g. In verse 24 "YAHWEH" is used for "God." This is interesting since "YAHWEH" is usually translated as "Lord." But we do have the Adonni which means "Lord" as well.
    - i. YAHWEH is God's covenant name for Israel.
    - ii. The Israelites would not speak the name YHWH and we do not really know how to pronounce it. Hebrew did not have vowels, they were added much later. Further, the Hebrew people thought the name "YAHWEH" was too holy to pronounce.
    - iii. As an application, how do we show that we believe God is holy?
    - iv. Do we trivialize sin?
    - v. Do we trivialize the holiness of God?
    - vi. We are about to see that Moses sinned and there were lasting consequences.
    - vii. We can only approach God because of Jesus' blood (Hebrews 4:16).
  - h. Verse 24: Moses acknowledges that God has begun to show "your servant..."
    - i. As some applications, Moses acknowledges that he is a servant of the Lord.
    - ii. Notice how many times in the New Testament Paul and others talk about being a "bond servant" of the Lord.

**Luke 2:29**

*“Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word;*

**Acts 4:29**

*And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,*

**Acts 16:17**

*Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, “These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation.”*

**Romans 1:1**

*[ The Gospel Exalted ] Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,*

**2 Corinthians 4:5**

*For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake.*

**Galatians 1:10**

*For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.*

**Philippians 1:1**

*[ Thanksgiving ] Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:*

**Philippians 2:7**

*but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.*

**Colossians 1:7**

*just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,*

**Colossians 4:7**

*As to all my affairs, Tychicus, our beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information.*

**2 Timothy 2:24**

*The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,*

**Titus 1:1**

*[ Salutation ] Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,*

**James 1:1**

*[ Testing Your Faith ] James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.*

**2 Peter 1:1**

*[ Growth in Christian Virtue ] Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:*

**Jude 1:1**

*[ The Warnings of History to the Ungodly ] Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:*

**Revelation 1:1**

*[ The Revelation of Jesus Christ ] The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,*

**Revelation 2:20**

*But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.*

**Revelation 7:3**

*saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."*

**Revelation 11:18**

*And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."*

**Revelation 15:3**

*And they \*sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!*

**Revelation 19:2**

*because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her."*

**Revelation 19:5**

*And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great."*

### Revelation 22:3

*There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;*

### Revelation 22:6

*And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.*

- iii. Have we realized that we are mere servants before God?
- iv. Have we lost our humility?
- v. In our democratic country have we lost the ability to submit to a king and has this prevented us from coming to God in humility as King of kings?
- i. Moses has just begun to see God's greatness. WE could look at this and think, "what do you mean, 'just begun...'"? Moses has seen a lot of God's greatness, but God is still so much greater.
- j. We serve a great God.
  - i. Think about Ezek 37 and the valley of dry bones.
  - ii. Think of Isaiah 6 and Isaiah seeing the Lord seated on the throne...
  - iii. Think of Ezek 1 and the vision he saw.
  - iv. Think of Daniel in the Lion's den, making the hungry lions purr (Daniel 6).
  - v. Think of Jesus' resurrection, what would those Roman guards think? Or, what about John 18:5-7: <sup>5</sup> *They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He \*said to them, "I am He." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup> So when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.*
  - vi. Of course think of all the visions in Revelation.
  - vii. We serve a great God.
- k. Moses talks about God's greatness and strong hand. Verse 24 ends with a question which implies a negative answer. There is no other god.
- l. Moses is not compromising monotheism: see Deut 4:35, 39; 6:4
- m. So Moses begins his request with worship.
- n. Verse 25: now we see his request.
- o. He wants to see the promised land. He calls this land:
  - i. Fair land
  - ii. Good hill country
- p. Verse 26: The Lord was still angry with Moses. The Lord was angry with him because of the people.
- q. The Lord was tired of hearing Moses about this.
- r. God does not change the consequence but He does loving all allow Moses to see the land.
- s. Numbers 20:10-11 and Deut. 32:51-52 record why Moses could not enter the promised land.
- t. Verse 27 Moses goes to see the land from the top of the mountain. The IVP Bible Backgrounds Commentary informs us: at this point the Mediterranean is about 60

- miles west but it cannot be seen because the hills on the west side of the Jordan obscure the view. On a clear day one can see Mount Hermon, about a hundred miles to the north, the mountains to the northwest that flank the Jezreel Valley (Tabor and Gilboa), the mountains of the central hill country (Ebal and Gerizim) and to the southwest as far as Engedi.
- u. The New American Commentary shares that from this elevation and vantage point it is possible to take in all of Canaan from Hermon in the north to Beersheba in the south and all the way west to the Mediterranean. Moses waited to ascend the mountain until the time came before he would die (Deut 34:1-5). This makes viewing the land of promise the last act of his life.
  - v. Verse 28: this is once again an encouragement to Joshua. Verse 21 was about Joshua as well. We see this repeatedly in Deuteronomy which needed to happen to guide the transition of authority.
  - w. Deut 1:38; 31:3, 7, 23
  - x. Joshua will go ahead and he will give them the inheritance the land which Moses will see.
  - y. They remained in the valley opposite Beth-Peor. This is probably the spot near Pisgah where Balaam attempted to curse the nation of Israel (Num. 23:28). (NET Bible note).