

Character Study: Moses
Part 8 – Moses' Death outside the Promised Land
Exodus 33-40, Numbers 10-14, Deut. 31, 34

What's happening?

- The Israelites faced God's judgment due to their idolatry, and they moved forward solely by God's grace (Ex. 32:35; 34:6-8). The Tabernacle was built as God's dwelling place among the people. (33:1-40:38)
- As the Israelites approached the land promised to them, twelve spies were sent out to survey the land. They reported that the land was fruitful, but that there were fortified cities that were too strong to overtake. The discouraged Israelites wanted to return to Egypt. (Num. 10:11-14:4)
- Knowing that God was with them, two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, insisted the people go and take the land. The people refused, so God determined that that generation (people twenty years old and older), except for Caleb and Joshua, would die in the wilderness, never being able to enjoy the land. The people would not enter the land for forty years. (Num. 14:5-38)
- Later, the people complained of thirst again, so God commanded Moses to speak to a rock, which would produce water. Moses, angry with the people, struck the rock twice with his rod, disobeying the Lord. Moses was told that he would not enter the Promised Land either. (Num. 20:1-13)
- Moses prepared Joshua to be the leader to take the people in the Promised Land. At the age of 120, Moses died. (Deut. 31:1-8; 34:1-12)

What's God doing?

> God allowed Moses to see the land, but he was never allowed to enter it. The people's sin prevented them from entering the land, as did Moses' sin. God does not pick favorites. God desires all to reverence Him as holy.

What's to learn?

→ Moses became frustrated with the people, which took his focus off of being obedient to God (note Num. 11:10-15, 21-22). There may be times people frustrate us, but it must never get our focus off doing what is right.

→ All of the spies saw the same thing, yet Caleb and Joshua's perspective of the situation was much different. The difference was that they trusted God, and it gave them confidence to move forward.

→ Moses was not perfect, yet his faith is an example for us all. Read Hebrews 11:23-29. His faith allowed God to use him to do great things!