BLESSINGS AND PROPHECIES

The Book of Deuteronomy ends with two chapters full of poetry, followed by a short epilogue about the death of Moses. Here in chapter 33, the focus is on Moses’ final blessings to the twelve tribes before his death. This is almost identical to the end of Genesis (Genesis 49 and 50). Both Moses and Jacob gather people together to give them blessings, and both Deuteronomy 33 and Genesis 49 highlight two of the twelve tribes that point forward to the Messiah. Jacob even notes that his words will “tell you what shall happen to you in days to come” (49:1), indicating an eschatological focus. Genesis 49 highlights Judah and Joseph. Judah represents the kingly aspect of the Messiah (v. 10). In contrast, Joseph portrays the suffering aspect of the Messiah (v. 26).

In fact, the entire Torah has an eschatological focus, in that Exodus and Numbers are also parallel to each other, especially in their longer poetry sections (Exod. 15 and Num. 23–24). The focus on the Exodus in these two books prophesies that the Messiah will live out the life of Israel, succeeding where they failed and recapitulating in His life what Israel went through in the Exodus (Num. 23:22, 24:8). This leaves Leviticus as the very center of the chiastic (or pyramid) structure of the Torah, and the structure of Leviticus also has a chiastic center, which is the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16), highlighting the death of the Messiah to atone for the sins of the people. Thus the whole Torah points toward the Messiah and helps us to understand some aspects of who He is and what He will be like, which are then fleshed out more in the prophets.
Write out Deuteronomy 33:1–17; 26–29 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Deuteronomy 33:26–29. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What positive aspects of kingship/leadership are highlighted in Scripture?

Who are some teachers who helped you to better understand the Bible? How did they do that?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut13-3
The Messiah Is Coming!

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How do the typological prophecies about Jesus give you hope about the certainty of His other promises?

After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut13-4
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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Genesis 49:8–12, 22–26
Deuteronomy 18:15–22
Deuteronomy 34:1–12
Jeremiah 33:14–26
Isaiah 11:1–16
Micah 5:2–4

What other parables come to mind in connection with Deuteronomy 33?

Meditate on Deuteronomy 33:1–17; 26–29 again and look for where Jesus is.

How can you share God’s grace and desire for relationship with someone today?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut13-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this entire lesson’s study, what are applications you are convicted of for your personal time?

What are applications you are convicted of in your social life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/deut13-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What difference would it make for you to be blessed by your parents or spiritual leaders?

The Torah points clearly to the first coming of the Messiah; how did those in Jesus’ day not see it? What does that say about what we might be missing today about the second coming?

What steps can you make to lead a life of integrity and faithfulness that will leave a legacy like Moses did?

Moses knew God face to face; this was the foundation of his legacy. What steps can you take today to build your relationship with God into the most important thing in your life?

How has your view of Deuteronomy changed over the past thirteen weeks?