THE SONG OF MOSES

As we begin our lesson this morning we must first look at Romans 15:4.

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Rom. 15:4

Here in the New Testament God has established that the things that were written in the Old Testament were written for our learning.

Even though the Old Testament is about God's dealings with the nation of Israel, God expects His church to study and learn from those things which were written in the Hebrew scriptures.

Now please turn to Deuteronomy 31.

The outline that I was given for this morning's lesson is on the Song of Moses.

While studying for this lesson I came to learn that there are two songs of Moses.

There is the “Song of Moses” so designated by the Bible commentators and then there is the Song of Moses so designated by the Holy Spirit of God who is the author of the Holy Bible.

We will look at both of them, all the while keeping Romans 15:4 in the back of our minds and remembering that “these things were written aforetime for our learning”.

The Book of Deuteronomy is the last of the five books of Moses.

It begins with Moses and the nation of Israel encamped in the plains of Moab on the east side of the Jordan River as the Israelites are nearing the end of forty years of wilderness wanderings and are preparing to enter the land that God has promised to their fathers.

Before entering the promised land God provides Israel with an overview and retelling of His covenant, His laws, His promised blessings for obedience, and His promised cursings for disobedience.

The Book of Deuteronomy ends with the death of Moses, the servant of God, and with the establishment of Joshua as his successor to lead the people into the land of Canaan.

But before Moses passes off the scene, the Lord has a particular song that He wants Moses to teach the children of Israel for their future generations.

It is a sad song.

It is a song which begins by publishing the name of God by means of declaring the character of God.

It is a song of rebuke for vile sins not yet committed but that will be committed in the future by a stubborn, ungrateful and forgetful people.

It is a song which proclaims the righteous wrath of God against all sin and which declares the chastisement that He will certainly bring upon His disobedient people.
It is a song which serves as a call to remembrance of the mighty God who redeemed His people from their bondage.

It is a song which serves as a reminder that after God has thoroughly purged His people through chastisement He will have mercy on them once again.

Lastly, it is a song which serves as a \textit{witness} before heaven and earth.

A \textit{witness} of the holiness of God.

A \textit{witness} of the sinfulness, wickedness, and utter foolishness of men.

A \textit{witness} of the wrath of God against all sin.

And a \textit{witness} of the enduring mercy of God.

Begin reading in Deuteronomy 31

\textbf{Deuteronomy 31}

31:1 And Moses went and spake these words unto all Israel.
31:2 And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.
Moses is announcing His retirement from service.

He will not be allowed to enter the promised land because, as we know from Numbers chapter 20, Moses sinned against God at the waters of Meribah in Kadesh when he “smote” the rock in order to bring forth water for the people instead of “speaking” to the rock as God had commanded him.

This shows us that there are consequences for doing things our way and not doing exactly what God has told us to do.

31:3 The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said.

In verse three we see that God leads and man follows.
That is the proper order for a successful Christian life.

31:4 And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed.

31:5 And the LORD shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you.

31:6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

31:7 And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.
31:8 And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

God will never fail you either, Christian.

In Hebrews 13:5 the Holy Spirit of Jesus wrote: ...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

31:9 And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel.

31:10 And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles,

31:11 When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

31:12 Gather the people together, men and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:

31:13 And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

God commanded that His word was to be proclaimed to everyone including the strangers within their gates.

So today, we are to preach the word of God by telling our individual testimonies to everyone within our circle of influence be they family,
friends, co-workers, neighbors, or the strangers in our town.

31:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thy days approach that thou must die: call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of the congregation, that I may give him a charge. And Moses and Joshua went, and presented themselves in the tabernacle of the congregation.

31:15 And the LORD appeared in the tabernacle in a pillar of a cloud: and the pillar of the cloud stood over the door of the tabernacle.

Here was a physical manifestation of God for a people who walked by sight and not by faith.
The pillar of fire by night and the pillar of cloud by day.
However, the Christian needs no such physical manifestations such as babbling in gibberish or falling on the floor or laughing uncontrollably.
2Corinthians 5:7 says: “For we walk by faith, not by sight...”.
The Christian walk is always by faith.
All that we know about God and all that we believe about God we have received by faith in His written word.

31:16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them.

31:17 Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall
be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?

31:18 And I will surely hide my face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods.

God uses very strong language to denounce the sins of His people. As the woman who plays the whore with many men, and as the man who plays the whoremonger with many women, so God said that the people would “go a whoring after the gods (plural) of the strangers of the land”.

God will respond by hiding His face from His people. Why?

Habbakuk 1:13 says: Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity...

Please turn to 1Peter 3:12

If you and I, as Christians, are practicing some sin in our lives, and we attempt to pray to God without first confessing and forsaking our sins, God will not regard our prayers and He will set His face against us.

1Peter 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil”.

Please note that 1Peter 3:12 is written to New Testament believers.
31:19 Now therefore write ye this song for you, and teach it the children of Israel: put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel.

In my opinion, the Bible commentators should have more accurately named this not the “Song of Moses” but the “Song of Witness” because that is the function that this song will serve. In time to come it will serve as a song of witness, for God, against the children of Israel.

31:20 For when I shall have brought them into the land which I sware unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant.

31:21 And it shall come to pass, when many evils and troubles are befallen them, that this song shall testify against them as a witness; for it shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their seed: for I know their imagination which they go about, even now, before I have brought them into the land which I sware.

31:22 Moses therefore wrote this song the same day, and taught it the children of Israel.

31:23 And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I sware unto them: and I will be with thee.

31:24 And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished,

31:25 That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying,
**31:26** Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a **witness** against thee.


He gave the Israelites a “song of witness” to testify against their sins which they would commit.

He gave them a written law to be placed in the ark of the covenant to serve as a witness against them for the times ahead when they would forsake the Lord.

God will even call heaven and earth to serve as **witnesses** of His righteousness and **witnesses** of His people's wickedness.

God also has a witness in this present day.

It is the body of Christ on the earth.

**Acts 1:8** says: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be **witnesses** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”.

As Christians we have been baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit of God just like those disciples in Acts chapter one.

Therefore, **we bear** the **witness** and the **testimony** of the Holy Ghost in ourselves that God is holy, man is sinful, and the two can only be reconciled by the blood that Jesus Christ shed on the cross to pay for our sins.
31:27 For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death?

31:28 Gather unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to record against them.

31:29 For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands.

31:30 And Moses spake in the ears of all the congregation of Israel the words of this song, until they were ended.

Deuteronomy 32

Now begins what the commentators call “the song of Moses” or what the Holy Bible more accurately calls this song: “a witness for God against the children of Israel”.

32:1 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

32:2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

32:3 Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.
Turn to **1Corinthians 10:1-4**

10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

10:2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

10:3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

All three members of the Godhead, including Jesus, were with Moses and the Israelites throughout their wilderness wanderings.

Notice how God begins His “song of witness” by first declaring His Name by proclaiming seven righteous aspects of His personal character.

Look at Deuteronomy 32:4 again.

1. Jesus Christ is not merely a rock.
   He is “the Rock”, the steady and unmoveable, completely reliable foundation of our most holy faith.

2. His work is perfect...you cannot improve upon God's work.

3. His ways are judgment...He judges all things and all people and declares if they be right or wrong, good or bad, righteous or unrighteous, holy or profane.
4. He is a God of truth...He cannot lie...indeed in John 14:6 Jesus stated that He is the truth!

5. He is without iniquity...there is no sin in Him...He cannot sin...God is holy...sin is not part of His character...sin should not be part of our character either!

Turn to 1Peter 1:15,16

1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.
The Lord plainly tells us to live a holy life!
So, go ahead!
Live a holy life!
Be Godly in the face of an ungodly world.
Be holy!
Live holy!
Is it not written in the New Testament that we have the mind of Christ?
A life of Christian holiness and Christlike thoughts and Christlike behaviour is the best revenge against the world, the flesh, and the devil that are always trying to turn your heart away from God.

6. God is just...He may not always be fair (in our estimation)...but God is always just...He will always do the right thing.

7. God is right...Psalm 33:4 says ...the word of the Lord is right...
If your thoughts and your opinions disagree with the word of God, you need to settle it in your heart that you are wrong and God is right...the word of the Lord is always right!

32:5 They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children: they are a perverse and crooked generation.
32:6 Do ye thus requite the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?

God reminds His people that He is their Father.
God bought them so He is their redeemer (that is...He owns them).
God made them so He is their Maker.
God established them...He planted them in the promised land.
This forgetful people needs constant reminding of the God who delivered them from bondage.
Let us not forget that God is our Father, God is our Redeemer (He owns us), God is our Maker, and that God has delivered us from our sins and translated us into the kingdom of God.

32:7 Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.
32:8 When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.
32:9 For the LORD's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.
32:10 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

32:11 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: 32:12 So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

32:13 He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

32:14 Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.

32:15 But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

Jeshurun, that is the people of Israel, became physically fat. It seems that they engaged themselves in too much feasting and not enough fasting. They prospered and ate well like the rich man in Luke 16 who fared sumptuously everyday. But their prosperity became a snare unto them just like the rich man in Luke 16 who died in his sins and burned in hell.
Notice the progression.
First they prospered.
Then they grew fat.
Then they forsook God.
Then they esteemed Him lightly.
They didn't think very much of the Lord.

Notice that when they grew fat and forgetful of God that they kicked against the word of the Lord.
Like the ox that kicks against the pointed goads that are always prodding him to move forward and pull the plow.
Like Saul of Tarsus when he met Jesus on the Damascus Road in Acts 9:5 when the Lord told him: “it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks”.
Of course it's hard.
It hurts!
Resisting the word of God always ends up causing us pain.

32:16 They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger.
32:17 They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.

The born again Christian is supposed to offer up sacrifices unto God.
We do not offer animal sacrifices but we do offer spiritual sacrifices.
Phil 2:17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.
In God's estimation your faith is a spiritual sacrifice that you offer to Him and to no one else.

Heb 13:15 By him therefore (speaking of Jesus) let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.
In God's estimation your praise and thanksgiving are spiritual sacrifices that you offer to Him and no one else.

1Corinthians10:20
But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

Deuteronomy 32 and 1Corinthians 10 are separated by some 1500 years of human history.
People sacrificed to devils in the days of Moses 3500 years ago.
People sacrificed to devils in the days of Jesus 2000 years.
People are still sacrificing to devils today.

WARNING: PERSONAL TESTIMONY AHEAD!!

Remember that we just read in the New Testament about the spiritual sacrifices of faith, praise, and thanksgiving.
My mother and I have been saved for twenty three years.  
When Jesus Christ saved us twenty three years ago the word of God 
guided us out of the Catholic religion.  
When we were Catholics we did not offer up animal sacrifices.  
But we did offer up spiritual sacrifices.  
We offered up the sacrifice of our faith, the sacrifice of our praise, 
and the sacrifice of our thanksgiving.  
We offered up these spiritual sacrifices to a statue of “virgin” Mary, 
to a “holy” picture of St. Anthony, to a gold medallion of St. Jude 
which hung around my neck, and to a crucifix with the image of a 
bloody body hanging upon it.

We were sincere in those practices and we thought we were doing 
the right thing.

But when we offered up our faith, and our praise, and our thanks to 
those idols the word of God in 1Corinthians 10:20 showed us that 
we actually offered up those spiritual sacrifices to devils and not to 
God, even though we were not aware of it.

It took the eternal word of God to show us that we were doing the 
wrong thing which is why we came out of that religious system.

32:18 Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast 
forgotten God that formed thee.
32:19 And when the LORD saw it, he abhorred them, because of the 
provoking of his sons, and of his daughters.
32:20 And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what
their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith.

32:21 They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

32:22 For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

32:23 I will heap mischiefs upon them; I will spend mine arrows upon them.

32:24 They shall be burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and with bitter destruction: I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust.

32:25 The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.

32:26 I said, I would scatter them into corners, I would make the remembrance of them to cease from among men:

32:27 Were it not that I feared the wrath of the enemy, lest their adversaries should behave themselves strangely, and lest they should say, Our hand is high, and the LORD hath not done all this.

32:28 For they are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them.

32:29 O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!

32:30 How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?
32:31 For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.

32:32 For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter:  
32:33 Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps.

32:34 Is not this laid up in store with me, and sealed up among my treasures?

32:35 To me belongeth vengeance and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

32:36 For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.

32:37 And he shall say, Where are their gods, their rock in whom they trusted,

32:38 Which did eat the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their drink offerings? let them rise up and help you, and be your protection.

32:39 See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

32:40 For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever.

32:41 If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.

32:42 I will make mine arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh; and that with the blood of the slain and of the captives, from the beginning of revenges upon the enemy.
Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.

And Moses came and spake all the words of this song in the ears of the people, he, and Hoshea the son of Nun.

At the end of the “song of witness” in verse 43 God promises to show mercy to His people after He has chastised them.

That was the “Song of Moses so designated by the Bible commentators.

We will now look at the “Song of Moses” so designated by the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 15:1

And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.
OK, so where is this song of Moses that is referenced in Revelation 15?

It's in Exodus 15.

You know the account.

God has just brought the nation of Israel out of their 400 year bondage in Egypt. He has just brought the entire nation through the Red Sea on dry land and completely destroyed Pharoah and his army. Therefore, Moses and the people offer up the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving unto God.

Exodus

15:1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, (notice that Moses did not “sing” the “song of witness” in Deuteronomy 32...but here he sings) and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

15:2 The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

15:3 The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.

15:4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

15:5 The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone.

15:6 Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.
15:7 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.
15:8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.
15:9 The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.
15:10 Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters.
15:11 Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?
15:12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.
15:13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.
15:14 The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina.
15:15 Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away.
15:16 Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.
15:17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast
made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O LORD, which thy hands have established.

15:18 The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.

15:19 For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

The real Song of Moses is a song of praise, worship, adoration, and thanksgiving to the Lord God Almighty.

Through all the trials, and tribulations, and troubles and complaining, and evil speaking that Moses endured from the children of Israel, the people closest to him, Moses always maintained a right heart towards God.

A heart that was filled with praise, worship, adoration, and thanksgiving to the Lord our God.

That must be our heart as well.

End

This Sunday School lesson was taught on March 24, 2013 at THE BIBLE Baptist Church of Deland by Louis Taylor

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