

## DEUTERONOMY CHAPTER 32 – The Song of Moses; Moses to Die on Mount Nebo

### OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

#### **The Song of Moses:**

*Deu 32:1 "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.  
Deu 32:2 Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass.  
Deu 32:3 For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God.  
Deu 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.  
Deu 32:5 "They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation.  
Deu 32:6 Do you thus deal with the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?  
Deu 32:7 "Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; Your elders, and they will tell you:  
Deu 32:8 When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, When He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the children of Israel.  
Deu 32:9 For the LORD's portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.  
  
Deu 32:10 "He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.*

*Deu 32:11 As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings,  
Deu 32:12 So the LORD alone led him, And there was no foreign god with him.*

*vs. 1-3* Throughout Scripture, the Word is likened to water. And here Moses declares the Word will come down not like a fire hydrant, blasting people, but like a gentle spring rain, blessing those who heard it. Tozer quote, **“No religion can be greater than its concept of God”** Here we see God beginning the Song with who He is~  
*v. 4* Everything God does is good.  
*vs.5-6* Remember, this song was composed to remind the children of Israel who God is and why they would be going through tribulation.  
*vs.7-8* Ask the elders if you don't know your history,” Moses said, “about how God divided humanity.” Seventy nations are listed in Genesis 10 following the Flood. Later, in Genesis 46, we see seventy who went to Egypt. Thus, seventy represents all of humanity. And God is sovereign over all.  
*v. 9* Of all humanity, God claimed Israel for Himself in a unique way. But He also claimed us, for Paul tells us we are His inheritance as well **Eph. 1:18b ..and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”**. How can we understand this? Paul said God proved His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). The value of an object is known by how much a person is willing to pay for it. What was God willing to pay for you? His very life. Thus, it is the Cross of Calvary that shows me how much He loves me.  
**God's riches are in His saints! Christians mature in the Lord when they learn how much they mean to Christ and then start living to bring joy to His heart.**

*v. 10* *howling wilderness...* God's people were found in a desert land. *He led ...* The Hebrew word translated “led” means “encompassed.” In other words, God says, “When My people were in the desert, wasting away, howling in emptiness, I encompassed them. I threw My arms around them. I enveloped them in Myself.” *instructed him...* God not only found and enveloped us, rescued and saved us, but He instructs us by His Word. *..apple of his eye ('iyshown-the little man; little man of the eye")* **God is so close to us, He literally sees His reflection in us?** Those who study such things tell us the fastest reflex in our bodies is that of the eyelid covering the eyeball. If there is an object coming towards your eye, instinctively, intuitively, immediately your eye closes in 1/1000th of a second. So in calling us the apple of His eye, God is saying, “When danger is headed your way, I am there to close you in, to take care of you.

*vs. 11-12* In using a mother eagle as an analogy for the Father-love of God, Moses drew on a subject with which the children of Israel, trudging through the wilderness, would have been very familiar.

#### **INTRODUCTION TO CHAP. 32:**

In this chapter we have the song Moses wrote. This is one of three - Song of deliverance (ex. 15:1-19); This song in chapter thirty two, and then the ninetieth Psalm is ascribed to Moses. So the three psalms of Moses.

**In Dt. 31:19** - The Lord has told Moses that he is going to rest with his fathers, “But write down this song for yourselves, teach it to the children of Israel, put it in their mouths that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel. For when I brought them to the land that is flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and filled themselves, and grown fat: then they will turn to other gods and serve them, and they will provoke Me and break My covenant. Then it shall be when many evils and troubles have come upon them, that this song will testify against them as a witness. For it will not be forgotten in the mouths of their descendants, for I know the inclination of their behavior today, even before I've brought them to the land which I swore to give them”. So, the purpose of this song is to be a witness to Israel.

#### **Moses' Song:**

##### **Vs. 1-4 God's Character**

##### **Vs. 5-14 God's Kindness to His Own People**

##### **Vs. 15-25 God's Faithfulness to His Chastening Israel**

##### **Vs. 26-43 God's Vengeance on His Adversaries**

#### **I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR – Hawks/Lowry/Maranatha**

1. I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;  
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.

Refrain:

I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee;  
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

2. I need thee every hour; stay thou nearby;  
temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.  
(Refrain)

3. I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;  
come quickly and abide, or life is vain.  
(Refrain)

4. I need thee every hour; teach me thy will;  
and thy rich promises in me fulfill.  
(Refrain)

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

**Deu 32:13** "He made him ride in the heights of the earth, That he might eat the produce of the fields; He made him draw honey from the rock, And oil from the flinty rock;

**Deu 32:14** Curds from the cattle, and milk of the flock, With fat of lambs; And rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, With the choicest wheat; And you drank wine, the blood of the grapes.

**Deu 32:15** "But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; You grew fat, you grew thick, You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

**Deu 32:16** They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger.

**Deu 32:17** They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear.

**Deu 32:18** Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you.

**Deu 32:19** "And when the LORD saw it, He spurned them, Because of the provocation of His sons and His daughters.

**Deu 32:20** And He said: 'I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end will be, For they are a perverse generation, Children in whom is no faith.

**Deu 32:21** They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.

**Deu 32:22** For a fire is kindled in My anger, And shall burn to the lowest hell; It shall consume the earth with her increase, And set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

**Deu 32:23** 'I will heap disasters on them; I will spend My arrows on them.

**Deu 32:24** They shall be wasted with hunger, Devoured by pestilence and bitter destruction; I will also send against them the teeth of beasts, With the poison of serpents of the dust.

**Deu 32:25** The sword shall destroy outside; There shall be terror within For the young man and virgin, The nursing child with the man of gray hairs.

**Deu 32:26** I would have said, "I will dash them in pieces, I will make the memory of them to cease from among men,"

**Deu 32:27** Had I not feared the wrath of the enemy, Lest their adversaries should misunderstand, Lest they should say, "Our hand is high; And it is not the LORD who has done all this." "

**v. 13** In Israel, bees make their honeycombs and olive trees take root in crevasses or fissures in the rocks. Therefore, what would seem to be an unproductive place actually produces sweetness and sustenance. "I'm on the rocks," we cry. "This is it. I'm through." And yet God would say, "There's honey and oil in those rocks, for in them you will discover sweetness you never knew about, empowering and anointing you never would have experienced." If you're between a rock and a hard place, realize that it is there that you will find honey and oil you never knew existed.

**v. 14** All of this describes richness and fullness. ...blood of the grape. I like this because it brings to mind, of course, the imagery of redemption, of Communion.

**v. 15** Jeshurun literally means "upright ones," and is another name for Israel. ...then he forsook God. This is such a sad story, yet one we've all experienced. When we're fat and happy, when everything is going great, we forget about God.

**vs. 17** They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger. 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. In 1 Cor. 10:20, Paul says that idols were not simply stone carvings or brass objects, but that demons were actually linked to them. And the same is still true.

**vs. 18-19** God gave His people honey and oil, livestock and vineyards—and yet in their prosperity they forget Him and became interested in other gods, passions, and ideologies.

**vs. 20-21** Paul alludes to and quotes this verse in Rom 10:19 But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: "I WILL PROVOKE YOU TO JEALOUSY BY THOSE WHO ARE NOT A NATION, I WILL MOVE YOU TO ANGER BY A FOOLISH NATION." when he says that the Lord will provoke His people to jealousy by bringing the gospel to the Gentiles and allowing them to be the Bride of Christ. "I will provoke My people to anger with a foolish nation," God says. Guess who the foolish nation is. It's us.

**v. 22-24** I believe this is a very accurate description of the horror of the Holocaust—a result of Israel turning away from the Lord and walking in rebellion against the Lord.

**v. 25-27** While conquering nations would erroneously think it was their own strength that defeated Israel, Israel's defeat would have nothing to do with the strength of other nations and everything to do with the chastening hand of God..

**v. 4 - "the Rock"!**

**Deu 32:4** He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

**Deu 32:15** "But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; You grew fat, you grew thick, You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

**Deu 32:18** Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you.

**2Sa 22:47** "The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation!

**Psa 61:2** From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

**Psa 62:7** In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.

**Psa 89:26** He shall cry to Me, 'You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.'

**Psa 94:22** But the LORD has been my defense, And my God the rock of my refuge.

**Psa 95:1** Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

**Pro 30:26** The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;

**Isa 17:10** Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation, And have not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold, Therefore you will plant pleasant plants And set out foreign seedlings;

**v. 6 bought..made..established - bought you before made and establishing! Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?**

**"before the foundation of the world"**

**Mat 25:34** Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'

**Joh 17:24** "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

**Eph 1:4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

**1Pe 1:20** He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you – Is there a similarity here between foreordaining Christ for the sin of the world even before Adam sinned?

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*Deu 32:28 "For they are a nation void of counsel, Nor is there any understanding in them.*

*Deu 32:29 Oh, that they were wise, that they understood this, That they would consider their latter end!*

*Deu 32:30 How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them, And the LORD had surrendered them?*

*Deu 32:31 For their rock is not like our Rock, Even our enemies themselves being judges.*

*Deu 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.*

*Deu 32:33 Their wine is the poison of serpents, And the cruel venom of cobras.*

*Deu 32:34 'Is this not laid up in store with Me, Sealed up among My treasures?*

*Deu 32:35 Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.'*

*Deu 32:36 "For the LORD will judge His people And have compassion on His servants, When He sees that their power is gone, And there is no one remaining, bond or free.*

*Deu 32:37 He will say: 'Where are their gods, The rock in which they sought refuge?*

*Deu 32:38 Who ate the fat of their sacrifices, And drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise and help you, And be your refuge.*

### Moses to Die on Mount Nebo

*Deu 32:39 'Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.*

*Deu 32:40 For I raise My hand to heaven, And say, "As I live forever,*

### INTERPRETATION

vs. 28-29 “I wish the people were wise,” Moses says. “Instead, they’re intrigued by their idols, seduced by paganism. I wish they would consider the end of that path.” That’s what the Bible does for us. That’s why it is so important. It lets us see where the road of sin leads.

v. 30 The Jewish people are heroic fighters. Look at David and Joshua, at Moshe Dayan and David Ben Gurion, at Old Testament stories and present-day heroes. How, then, could it be that they would go through periods in their history where a single enemy soldier could chase 1,000 of them? There’s only one explanation: the Lord’s hand against them.

v. 31 The rock of the Third Reich, the rock of any nation is incomparable to the Rock of Israel.

v. 32-35 This was the text of the most famous sermon preached in American history. A man named Jonathan Edwards, in one of the most famous sermons, ushered in the Great Awakening with his message entitled, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” Drawing from this Dt. 32:35 text, Edwards said **men are walking over a fiery pit on an icy plank, dangling by a thread over the fires of hell.** An unassuming man with a high voice and poor eyesight, it was hardly Edwards’ demeanor that caused revival. **Rather, it was the power of the Word and the anointing of the Spirit that caused people to pour down the aisles of his church.** People came to this country and worshiped God. But they had forgotten about Him, falsely secure in their theology and caught up in material prosperity even in the earliest days of our country’s history. So God used Edwards and others to do what we so often fail to do today—to **call a nation to repentance.**

v. 36-40 We like to think of God as One who heals. And He does. But, as seen in verse 39, He also wounds. When I read about God and study His Word, I realize that He is much bigger than my ability to package Him neatly. He is, after all, God. God doesn’t make deals with me or you. He’s God. And **He can wound, heal, kill, and resurrect** whenever He wants. **Our God is indeed an awesome God, a fearful and terrible God.** He loves us. He proved it in sending His Son to die for us. But never forget this song. **The people who forget this do so to their own destruction.**

### APPLICATION

**APPLICATION: Vs. 28-29** May help us to look down the road to see where that path is leading!

v. 30 Following the 1967 Israel war, a tremendous cockiness could be observed. Because they had been able to achieve such tremendous territorial gains, in just that seven-day war. They thought they were invincible. I mean they, they were bragging all about their military genius and the whole thing. Until 1973. They had set up that Barlev Line, down in Sinai, across the Suez Canal, they thought that it was impregnable. The Egyptians came right across that Barlev and wiped it out, and Israel almost was annihilated. **They recognized after 1973, that it was God who sustained them.** What a change of attitude. What a change in the whole demeanor of the people. They were humbled in 1973. **They were proud after 1967, but they were humbled after 1973.** They came to a recognition that it was God’s hand that delivered them, and saved them. **They began to consider, “How can one chase a thousand, two put ten thousand, unless God was with them”.**

**Jonathan Edwards** - In July 1741, Jonathan Edwards accepted an invitation to preach at the neighboring town of Enfield, Connecticut. It was the height of the Great Awakening (1740–42), one of the most intense outpourings of God’s Spirit in American history. The fire of God was falling everywhere. Despite the fact he had delivered “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” to his own congregation with little effect, he felt led to use it again at Enfield.

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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

*Deu 32:41 If I whet My glittering sword, And My hand takes hold on judgment, I will render vengeance to My enemies, and repay those who hate Me.*  
*Deu 32:42 I will make My arrows drunk with blood, And My sword shall devour flesh, With the blood of the slain and the captives, From the heads of the leaders of the enemy." "*  
*Deu 32:43 "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people."*  
*Deu 32:44 So Moses came with Joshua the son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people.*  
*Deu 32:45 Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel,*  
*Deu 32:46 and he said to them: "Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe—all the words of this law.*  
*Deu 32:47 For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess."*  
*Deu 32:48 Then the LORD spoke to Moses that very same day, saying:*  
*Deu 32:49 "Go up this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, across from Jericho; view the land of Canaan, which I give to the children of Israel as a possession;*  
*Deu 32:50 and die on the mountain which you ascend, and be gathered to your people, just as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people;*  
*Deu 32:51 because you trespassed against Me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah Kadesh, in the Wilderness of Zin, because you did not hallow Me in the midst of the children of Israel.*

*Deu 32:52 Yet you shall see the land before you, though you shall not go there, into the land which I am giving to the children of Israel."*

*vs. 41-43* I'm glad the song ends this way—with **vengeance for God's enemies and mercy for His people.**

*vs. 44-47* Too many things we do with our kids are vain or empty. But teaching them the Word, talking to them about the Lord, sharing with them where we're at in our own walk with Him does not fall into that category. I have yet to regret any time I've spent teaching my kids the ways and the Word of God. I've yet to look back once and wish that we'd gone bowling instead.

*vs. 48-49* "Go up into the mountain," the Lord said to Moses, "and you can see the Promised Land. You'll not be able to cross over the Jordan with the people, but I'll give you a sneak preview of coming attractions."

*vs. 50-51* "Speak to the rock," the Lord had told Moses when the people cried for water. Instead, Moses struck the rock (Numbers 20:11). There had been a time previously when he was to strike the rock (Exodus 17:6)—but this time he was simply to speak to it. **The first time speaks of the first coming of the Rock of Ages, when Jesus was smitten on the Cross. The second time, however, speaks of the Second Coming, when He will come not as the smitten Servant but as the conquering King.** It's a dangerous thing to misrepresent the nature of God to people.

*v. 52* While Moses didn't get to enter the Promised Land with the children of Israel, he did, in fact, make it there—for in Matthew 17, as Jesus was transfigured on Mount Hermon, Moses was right there with Him. God snuck him in!

**Vs. 39-43 Deuteronomy 32:39-43**

**This conclusion of the song speaks three things:**

**I. Glory to God, Deu 32:39.**

**II. Terror to His enemies, Deu 32:40-42.** Terror indeed to those that hate him, as all those do that serve other gods, that persist in willful disobedience to the divine law, and that malign and persecute his faithful servants. These are those to whom God will render vengeance, those his enemies that will not have him to reign over them. In order to alarm such in time to repent and return to their allegiance, the wrath of God is here revealed from heaven against them.

**III. Comfort to His own people (Deu 32:43):** *Rejoice, O you nations, with his people.* He concludes the song with words of joy; for in God's Israel there is a remnant whose end will be peace. God's people will rejoice at last, will rejoice everlastingly. Three things are here mentioned as the matter of joy: -

**1. The enlarging of the church's bounds.** The apostle applies the first words of this verse to the conversion of the Gentiles. Rom 15:10, Rejoice you Gentiles with his people. See what the grace of God does in the conversion of souls, it brings them to rejoice with the people of God; for true religion brings us acquainted with true joy, so great a mistake are those under that think it tends to make men melancholy.

**2. The avenging of the church's controversies upon her adversaries.** He will make inquisition for *the blood of his servants*, and it shall appear how precious it is to him; for those that spilt it shall have blood given them to drink.

**3. The mercy God has in store for his church, and for all that belong to it:** He will be *merciful to his land, and to his people*, that is, to all every where that fear and serve him. Whatever judgments are brought upon sinners, it shall go well with the people of God; in this let Jews and Gentiles rejoice together.

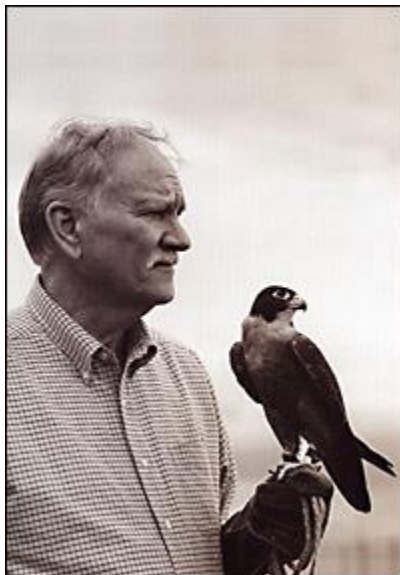
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### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION



**Clayton M. White**, born in 1936, is an Emeritus Professor of Zoology in the Department of Integrative Biology and the Curator of Ornithology, Brigham Young University, is referred to as an expert on eagles.

According to this man, having experience in raising eagles, baby eaglets are not pushed out of their nest, falling and screaming toward the ground, but as they get old enough, they start flapping their wings and begin to jump and hop, stimulated by the parent eagle stirring up the nest. Sometimes the parents fly around the nest demonstrating to them how to fly and may even carry food to attract them. Then they begin to fly very short distances. As they continue to grow they began to be able to fly. **Moses observed something that does occur. The parent then begins to take them on “circuits”, flying under them to increase the updraft making their flying easier. A magnetic sensitive substance pole with electrolyte fluid pectin begins to develop in their eyes which enables them to know true north. One of the main purposes of the training circuits is to teach the eaglets “how to get home”.** This enables them to always be able to find their way home! **What a spiritual application for us! -- God’s caring for us, teaching us “how to get home”!!!**

**Marriage of eagles--monogamous:** married for life! At about three years old, male notices female and flies by her. Eagles have unbelievable eye sight! It’s said they can read a newspaper a city block away! The noticing female flies down and picks up a small stick and soars high in the sky with it. The male follows. They engage in flying figure eights with the female above the male. The female drops the stick and the male needs to catch it before it hits the ground. The female remains unimpressed and continues this practice with progressively larger and larger sticks, soaring to lesser heights each time. After about the four or fifth time, the female is now picking up a heavy stick almost equal to her body weight. She soars to about 500 feet or so and now the figure eights are getting smaller and faster. She drops the heavy stick and if the male is able to swoop down and catches it before it hits the ground, they are ready for marriage. If not, she goes away, is not interested and the relationship is over.

The marriage occurs then as they together soar to a very high height. The male then hovers over the female. She turns upside down. They lock talons and fall screaming toward the earth. (supposed these are screams of joy???). when they arrive near to the earth, they

let go of each other and they are married for life!