

DEUTERONOMY 3:23-29 -- PRAYER FOR A PRIVILEGED TASK!

12/23/2017 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

HAVE THINE OWN WAY – Pollard/Stebbins - Maranatha Music

1. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting, yielded and still.
2. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now, As in Thy presence humbly I bow.
3. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power, all power, surely is Thine! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.
4. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me.

The Biblical Setting: Following the Balaam prophecies, in chapter 25, Israel committed harlotry in Moab, the concept introduced and given to King Balak by Balaam. In chapter 27 there was the Second Census of Israel, which totaled 601,350, compared to 603,555 about 40 years earlier. The first part of chapter 27 deals with inheritance laws, introduced by the situation of the daughter of Zelophehad. In verse 12, the LORD told Moses to go up into Mount Abarim and look at the Promised Land. Then the LORD would gather Moses to his people. We now come to Deuteronomy, which addresses the new generation just prior to the nation of Israel entering the Promised Land. The LORD has just demonstrated His power by giving Israel victory over Kings Sihon and Og. The land east of the Jordan has been divided. Moses had misrepresented God at Meribah and would not go in to the Land. Now Moses remembers his plea to enter the Promised Land.

DT. 3:23-29 *"Then I pleaded with the LORD at that time, saying: [24] 'O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds? [25] I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.' [26] 'But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me.*

- **Deu 3:21-22** Joshua was commanded by Moses, saying 'Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings; so will the LORD do to all the kingdoms through which you pass. [22] You must not fear them, for the LORD your God Himself fights for you.' Then I pleaded with the LORD . . . Let me cross over and see: Moses knew God was rich in mercy and forgiveness. Therefore, he knew there was no harm in asking God to relent from His previous judgment that Moses would not see the Promised Land.
- We can appreciate what a painful thing this was for Moses. He lived the first 40 years of his life confident in his own ability to deliver Israel. He spent the next 40 years of his life having that confidence demolished as he tended his father-in-law's sheep. He spent the last 40 years of his life being used of God to do what he was called to do. Now, he was not allowed to see the end result. No wonder Moses ***pleaded with the LORD***.

[26b] So the LORD said to me: 'Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter.

- God did not want to hear Moses' appeal on this matter. Because of his sin at Meribah (**Num 20:1-29**), where he misrepresented God as being angry with Israel when He was not, Moses could not enter the Promised Land.
- This may seem an excessively harsh punishment for Moses. It seemed that after only one failure, he then had to die short of the Promised Land. But Moses was being judged by a stricter standard because of his leadership position with the nation; his uniquely close relationship with God.
- Teachers and leaders are rightly to be judged by a stricter standard (**Jas 3:1**); though it is unrighteous to hold them to a perfect standard. The people's conduct was worse than Moses' but that's not the standard here.
- Worst of all, Moses marred a beautiful picture of Jesus' redemptive work through the rock which provided water in the wilderness. The New Testament makes it clear this water-providing, life-giving rock was a picture of Jesus (**1Co 10:4**). Jesus, being struck once, provided life for all who would drink of Him (**Joh 7:37**). It, indeed was unnecessary and unrighteous that Jesus would be struck again, much less again twice, because the Son of God needed only to suffer once (**Heb 10:10-12**). We can now come to Jesus with words of faith (**Rom 10:8-10**). Moses should have only used words of faith to bring life-giving water to the nation of Israel. So Moses "ruined" this picture of the work of Jesus God intended.
- ***Speak no more to Me of this matter***: Moses was a great man of intercession - perhaps one of the greatest in the Bible. Yet, God would say "no" even to Moses in prayer. God will sometimes say no even to His mightiest

intercessors (*Jer. 15:1b*). "Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My mind would not be favorable toward this people. Cast them out of My sight, and let them go forth."

[27] Go up to the top of Pisgah, and lift your eyes toward the west, the north, the south, and the east; behold it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan.

- **Pisgah:** The place where Moses would be able to see the Promised Land from a distance, and then die - and where the book of Deuteronomy will end.

[28] But command Joshua, and encourage him and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see. [29] "So we stayed in the valley opposite Beth Peor."

- It would have been easy for Moses to have a bad attitude here - "If I'm not going into the Promised Land, I'm sure not going to help by training my replacement." But that was not Moses' heart. He would do everything he could to love the people, prepare them to go in, and to make Joshua a success. A man of God would not do it any other way.
- Moses had the heart of a true shepherd. He knew that his ministry was not centered on himself and his own satisfaction, but on God and His people.
- Moses' death is not recorded until chapter 34, so that the whole book of Deuteronomy is framed between the announcement of Moses' impending death and the announcement of his actual death. Thus, Deuteronomy, in a sense, is the spiritual testament of Moses, Israel's great Lawgiver.

SUMMARY:

- **We see how important it is for the believer not to misrepresent God!**
- **While it seems like the penalty is most excessive for Moses' error, we see the vital importance of seeing in type here, that Christ only be struck once. (*Heb. 10:10-12*)**
- **Moses will be allowed to see the Land but not to enter it with the people at this time.**
- **We need to note Moses' intercession for the people and his continuing commitment in leading the people and training us his replacement.**
- **What an awesome lesson of obedience being taught here! Even Moses as great a man as he was, was refused by God. "Don't talk to me anymore Moses." He prayed to the Lord, "Lord please!" "That's enough. Don't talk to me anymore!"**

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. General James Kelly. The Cabinet and all advisors. Christopher Wray, F.B.I.

Please Note: You may see/download any of the past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: www.ptwente.com

Adelaide Pollard, author of "*Have Thine Own Way*", was distressed. In spite of her best efforts, she could not raise the funds she needed to go as a missionary to Africa. "Why?" wondered the forty-year-old woman.

Discouraged, she attended prayer meeting one evening in 1902. There an old woman prayed: "Lord, it doesn't matter what you bring into our lives--just have your way with us." The words sank home.

Adelaide went home. She meditated on the old woman's prayer and on Bible texts in Jeremiah 18:3,4 and Isaiah which referred to God as a potter. As a result, she wrote a hymn which millions have sung: *Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting, yielded and still.*

Adelaide was named Sarah when she was born in Bloomfield, Iowa on this day, November 27, 1862. She didn't like her given name and adopted Adelaide in its place. Her life was always centered on her faith. After training in Chicago, she taught in several girls' schools and then became active as a Bible teacher, evangelist and healer. She herself had been healed of diabetes through prayer. Contemporaries saw her as a mystic and saint. During the years that she was unable to go to Africa, she taught at the Christian and Missionary Alliance school in Nyack, New York.

Shortly before World War I, she did reach Africa. However, the war forced her to retreat to Scotland. After the fighting was over, she returned to the United States where, despite failing health, she preached in New England. One of her major themes was that Christ would soon return. Adelaide wrote over 100 other songs, but just how many we do not know for certain, since she seldom signed them, not desiring credit.