

Lesson 13 for
December 25, 2021

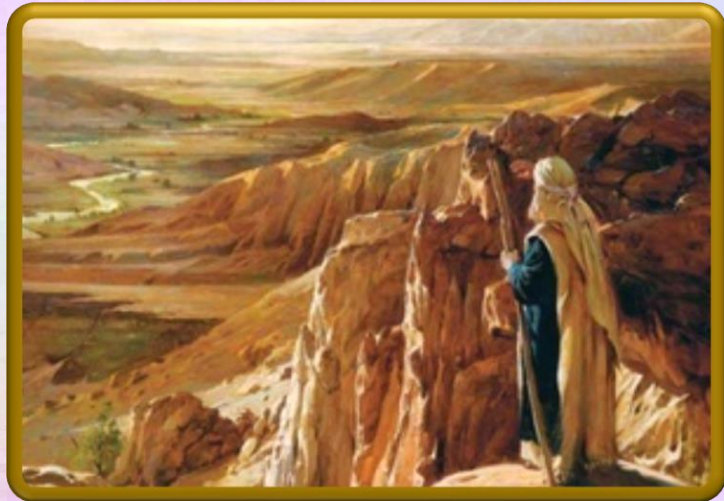


THE RESURRECTION OF MOSES

Moses began his Deuteronomy speeches “in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.” (Nm. 36:13)

An unknown author wrote what he did after he finished: “Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho.” (Dt. 34:1)

Moses already knew that was the last time he would climb that mount. He would not enter Canaan. Why? What can we learn from his experience?



The sin of Moses:



The trigger



The consequences



The death of Moses



The resurrection of Moses



The resurrection of the redeemed

THE SIN OF MOSES: THE TRIGGER

“And why have you made us come up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink.” (Numbers 20:5)



We might try to justify the sin of Moses and Aaron:

They were still in mourning for their sister (Nm. 20:1)

They were accused of not keeping their promise (Nm. 20:5) although they had not made any promise, God did

They lost count of how many times the people had rebelled against them

Initially they reacted humbly and seek God’s guidance like in previous times (Nm. 20:6). They followed God’s instructions and took the people to the Rock.

But something failed. They got swept up in rage. They tried to replace God, as if they had power in themselves (Nm. 20:10). This is what happens when we stop looking at God and look at ourselves instead.



THE SIN OF MOSES: THE CONSEQUENCES

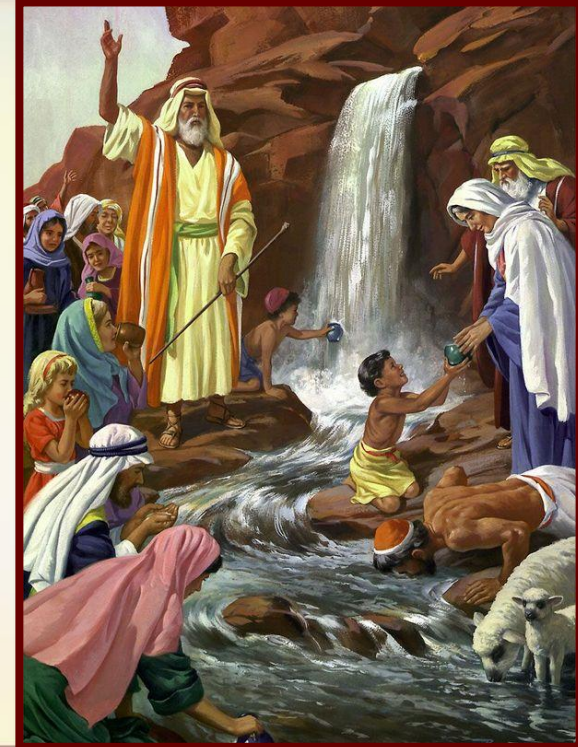
"Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, 'Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.'" (Numbers 20:12)

God's order was clear: speak to the rock (Nm. 20:8). The rock is Jesus (1Co. 10:4); it had already been struck (Ex. 17:6), so it didn't have to be struck again (Heb. 9:28; 1P. 3:18).

Moses had trusted God during the previous 40 years, but this time he didn't believe. His unbelief prevented the Israelites from giving glory to God, so God was not worshipped on that occasion.

Were the Israelites influenced by this example of disobedience? Maybe it encouraged the sin at Baal-Peor or the defeat at Ai?

One thing is sure, God considered this mistake so important that he denied His servant's greatest desire: to enter Canaan.



THE DEATH OF MOSES

"Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo [...] So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 34:1, 5)



Surrounded by the solitude of the mount, Moses recalled the difficulties of his life.

His somehow drastic decision of helping the people of God, his years as a shepherd in Midian, the burning bush, the miracles in Egypt, God's merciful provision during the 40 long years of pilgrimage...

What was the result of all that?

Almost none of those who had left Egypt were going to enter Canaan. Not even himself!

God showed Moses in a supernatural way how His promises were going to be fulfilled (Dt. 34:1-4). Moses could rest in peace. He had fought the good fight, he had finished the race, he had kept the faith.



THE RESURRECTION OF MOSES

“Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’” (Jude 1:9)

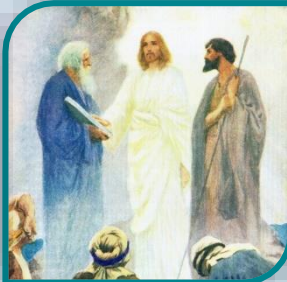
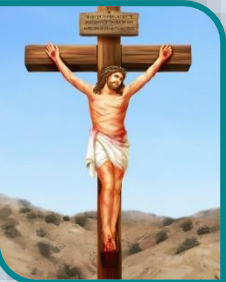


Moses died and was buried by God (Dt. 34:5-6). But his story didn't end then. He was going to be resurrected to eternal life.

However, Satan was there: “It is not fair! He has committed the same sin I did. He tried to become God by striking the rock. HE IS MINE!” Moses could not be resurrected because redemption was not fulfilled yet. However, he was.



Thanks to the sacrifice that Jesus would do for Moses, he got a prize much more valuable than entering Canaan. He would be able to talk to God face to face and to live forever with Him.



“Satan exulted that he had succeeded in causing Moses to sin against God. For this transgression Moses came under the dominion of death. If he had continued faithful, and his life had not been marred with that one transgression, in failing to give God the glory of bringing water from the rock, he would have entered the Promised Land, and would have been translated to heaven without seeing death. Michael, or Christ, with the angels that buried Moses, came down from heaven, after he had remained in the grave a short time, and resurrected him and took him to heaven.”

E. G. W. (The Story of Redemption, cp. 22, p. 173)

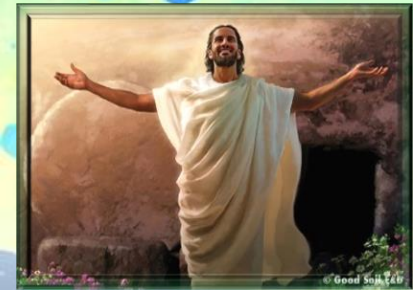
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"in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (1 Corinthians 15:52)

Moses was the first person to be resurrected to eternal life. Other people did after him (Mt. 27:52-53; Eph. 4:8 NIV). Nevertheless, the greatest harvest is yet to come.

When Jesus comes back, all those who believed in Him will be resurrected to live forever with Him (1Co. 15:52).

None of these resurrections would have been possible if Jesus had not been resurrected, thus overcoming death. The resurrection of Jesus guarantees our salvation. We have the same hope that Moses had, as we're at the gates of heavenly Canaan. We will soon greet Him face to face.



“The same power that raised Christ from the dead will raise His church, and glorify it with Christ, as His bride, above all principalities, above all powers, above every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in the heavenly courts, the world above. The victory of the sleeping saints will be glorious on the morning of the resurrection.”

E. G. W. (Selected Messages, book 1, cp. 45, p. 305)