**THE FINAL CHARGE OF MOSES**

Sunday School Lesson 21

*Wandering in the Wilderness*

Deuteronomy

6/1/2025

**Lesson Review:** In our twentieth lesson, we continued our look at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. While he failed to curse Israel, Balaam found a way to cast a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before Israel that led to the death of many. His stumblingblock was an invitation to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for God’s people. We noticed that Balaam’s counsel was designed to lure Israel into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The doctrine of Balaam is to have the enemy subtly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s people. His stumblingblock consisted of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Balaam knew that idolatry would turn the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the people away from God. This would then provoke the righteous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our jealous God. He also knew that fleshly sins would lead the people to pursue their own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ desires, and it would promote the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that had plagued them in the wilderness. Balaam was able to get Israel to become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with sin. The Israelites had become so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to sin that they openly embraced it in their camp. Their comfort with sin revealed a deep spiritual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that had an effect on the entire congregation. Ultimately, Balaam’s stumblingblock resulted in Israel suffering the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of sin, as God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had to be carried out. Balaam got what he wanted. In the end, though, the enemy nations and Balaam were destroyed because of their own evil and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In today’s lesson, we are going to say goodbye to the great leader Moses by observing a few key points that he made to the children of Israel before he passed the torch onto Joshua. Moses led the people all the way to the end”

1. **MOSES CHARGED THE PEOPLE TO REMEMBER THE FAITHFULNESS OF THE LORD.**
2. **Notice that the Israelites had been eyewitnesses of the Lord’s faithfulness to His commands to them.** *Deuteronomy 4:* *5 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. 6 Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. 7 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? 8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?* Moses reminded the people of God’s faithfulness in His commands. His law is righteous because of His faithfulness to them. There is no inconsistency with God. That provides His children with a great source of wisdom, confidence, and understanding in this world. We do not have to wonder generally what God’s will is for us. He has given us His commands, and He is faithful to them. He expects for us to live them out and to obey them.
3. **Notice that the Israelites had been eyewitnesses of the Lord’s faithfulness to His covenant with them.** *Deuteronomy 4:31 (For the Lord thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them. 32 For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and ask from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it? 33 Did ever people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live?* Moses drew attention to the unbelievable covenant that God had made with Israel. There had never been such a covenant made with a people to that point. He reminded them that God wanted to reveal Himself to them. He wanted them to be close to Him. This was shown in the fact that they heard the voice of God out of a fire and were able to live. Christ’s covenant on the cross was an even greater covenant than the one that God made with Israel. As believers, we ought to be reminded of God’s faithfulness in His covenant with His children.
4. **Notice that the Israelites had been eyewitnesses of the Lord’s faithfulness in His care of them.** *Deuteronomy 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live. 4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.* The Lord had greatly provided for the Israelites in the wilderness. That provision was not just physical provision. The Lord gave them spiritual provision. He intentionally allowed for them to face struggles in order to grow their faith and make them stronger as a people.
5. **MOSES CHARGED THE PEOPLE TO REMEMBER TO FEAR THE LORD.**
6. **Notice that the Israelites were reminded that God’s care for them involved His chastening of them.** *Deuteronomy 8:* *5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee. 6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him. 7 For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills;* Moses had seen all of the chastisement that Israel had to go through because of their rebellion and wickedness. He had personally experienced the chastening hand of the Lord in his own life. He was very concerned that Israel was going to forget about God’s chastening when they reached that blessed place of comfort and rest that they had been seeking. Sadly, his concern was properly placed, as it didn’t take them long to forget all of the punishment they had faced in the wilderness. When things are going well, God’s children have a tendency to forget the pain that comes from God’s chastening of us.
7. **Notice that the Israelites were reminded that God’s covenant to them involved the condemnation of other nations who had rejected God.** *Deuteronomy 8:* *18 But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. 19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. 20 As the nations which the Lord destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the Lord your God.* The nations that Israel was ordered to destroy were not arbitrary victims of God’s plan for Israel. Through the covenant with Israel, God was carrying out righteous judgment on nations that had rejected Him. Their benefit came at the destruction of these other nations. God is not a respecter of persons. If He was destroying these nations, He was doing it with purpose. It was not special favoritism of Israel. With that in mind, Israel needed to be reminded that they could face the same fate that they had seen carried out on others. In fact, we see this with Israel today. They have been rejected by the Lord because they foolishly rejected Him.
8. **MOSES CHARGED THE PEOPLE TO REMEMBER TO TEACH THE FUTURE GENERATIONS.**
9. **Notice that the Israelites had an opportunity to lay a solid foundation for future generations.** *Deuteronomy 4:9b but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; 10b and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children. 6:7a And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, 11:19a And ye shall teach them your children, Deuteronomy 31:19a Now therefore write ye this song for you, and teach it the children of Israel:* Moses told the children of Israel at least five times in the book of Deuteronomy to make sure that they taught the ordinances of God to their children. The generation of people he was speaking to had not seen parents instructing their children in a Godly manner. Their parents were part of a rebellious and froward generation. The Israelites could pave a new way forward for their families. They could teach them to stand strongly on the Word of God.
10. **Notice that the Israelites would have to be committed to this task to ensure that a generation could not forget about the Lord God of the wilderness.** *Deuteronomy 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 11:19 And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 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.* These are some of the same verses that were mentioned in the last point. Notice the ending of these verses. Moses wanted the Israelites to be so committed to teaching the future generations the things of God that there would be no way that the new generation could forget them. These other nations had been condemned over time. Someone failed to transfer Godly knowledge.
11. **MOSES CHARGED THE PEOPLE TO RESOLVE TO FOLLOW THE LORD GOD.**

* **Notice that the Israelites had a choice to make. Would they choose to love and follow the Lord?** *Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: 20a That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him:* Moses commands the Israelites on nine occasions in Deuteronomy to love the Lord. Yet, it was their choice. Sadly, he could not force them to love God. Soon enough, they would get the opportunity to proclaim their decision!