**The Death of Moses**

**A Bible Story From**

**Deuteronomy 34:1-12**

**Bible Story Number: 1010690**

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**The Death of Moses**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

God made a profound promise to Abraham (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

This promise (covenant) was passed on to Isaac and Jacob. God reconfirmed His promise to the descendents of Abraham. The nation of Israel continued to be God’s chosen people.

The Israelites (descendents of Jacob) moved to Egypt as a part of God’s plan. God used what Joseph’s brothers intended as evil as a way to bless Joseph and rescue the entire family.

After the tenth plague that God sent on the Egyptian people, Pharaoh finally let the Israelites leave. They had been in Egypt 430 years. The day they left, there were approximately 600,000 foot soldiers in the Israelites army. The total number of people was much larger because this did not include their families.

The Israelites had been away from Egypt for a while when the events described in this story took place. They had complained several times. They had disobeyed God many times.

Moses was their leader and God spoke to them through him. Moses was still concerned because God had told him to lead the Israelites to the land God had promised, but that God would not be going with them. (Ex. 33:3)

Moses talked to God on behalf of the Israelites. God committed to go with them. This even happened before they continued their journey.

God also met with Moses to replace the stone tablets he had broken. Moses spent forty day and nights on Mount Sinai.

God appointed Joshua as the successor to Moses. God told Joshua he would lead the Israelites into the land God had promised to give them and their descendants. Moses laid his hands of Joshua as a sign that he publicly endorsed Joshua as the new leader.

**Story from the Bible**

**Deuteronomy 34:1-12**

This is what the Bible says.

God led Moses up on Mount Nebo. There God showed him the land that He had promised to give Abraham and his descendants. God allowed Moses to see the land with his own eyes from a distance, but Moses was not allowed to go there.

Moses was the servant of God. He died in the land of Moab after God showed him the promised land. God buried Moses there in the valley of Moab. No one knows exactly where his grave is.

Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eyes were not weak and he still had his strength and vitality.

Israel never had another prophet like Moses. He had a special relationship with God and knew God face to face. He talked to God like a man talks to his friend.

God gave Moses the ability to perform miracles. God used him to bring the plagues on Pharaoh and all of Egypt. He gave Moses the power to perform many miracles during the time the Israelites lived in the desert.

The Israelites mourned for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days. When the time of mourning ended, they prepared to follow Joshua into the Promised Land.

Joshua was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites obeyed him and did what God had commanded.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* What did God show Moses just before he died?
* How old was Moses when he died?
* How was Moses’ health at the time of his death?
* What was unique or special about Moses?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.