

COVENANTAL CLIFFHANGER

Deuteronomy 32:48-34:12

I. Israel's blessedness in Canaan is beyond doubt as they look to the favor of their matchless God (33:1-29).

- A. As they recall the righteous acts of their God in the past (33:2-5).
- B. As they lean upon their immortal God (33:6-29).

II. Israel's blessedness in Canaan is in doubt as they look to the funeral of their matchless mediator (32:48-52; 34:1-12).

- A. As they recall the unrighteous acts of their mediator in the past (32:48-52).
- B. As they lament over their mortal mediator (34:1-12).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What is a cliffhanger, and what kind of emotional response is it intended to produce in us? Does God use cliffhangers in the Bible? Does He in Deuteronomy?
2. Who blessed the twelve tribes of Israel on his deathbed before Moses (see Gen. 49-50)? What does this parallel teach us?
3. As Moses blesses Israel in chapter 33, is He petitioning God for blessing or is He authoritatively pronouncing God's blessing upon the people? What about when the pastor gives God's blessing at the end of the service?
4. Is Moses confident that God will bring Israel into the land of Canaan and bless them there?
5. Read Deuteronomy 33:26-29. What does Moses tell us about God here?
6. What is the blessing set forth in chapter 33 sandwiched between? Why is this important to see? And how does this result in the audience being "left hanging" as Deuteronomy comes to an end? What is God's purpose in doing this?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Is my familiarity with the biblical story keeping me from being aroused by the in-built suspense and anticipation that marks the entire Old Testament?
2. Meditate on Deuteronomy 33:29 (perhaps even memorize it). Is my life characterized by the joy that ought to accompany one who has God as their Savior and Warrior?
3. Why ought the funeral of Moses to drive me to Christ?