

PRAYING In The Bible

Prayer in the Bible: Moses Prayer

Are these songs in the Bible spiritual markers? Are they prayer? Possibly they are an ode to the Lord. What if they were all of the above. Are they written by Mary or Moses? Or are they a Jewish marker to greatness. A place where God has done some of His best work? It's hard to argue that Mary is an amazing story. That Moses is providence. Zachariah finds redemption and enlightenment in the Lord. However, each of these songs has salvation mixed in it. Moses brings them through. Zachariah's son paves the way. Jesus is the way. Even next week we will hear of Deborah saving Israel. Let's dig into Moses Prayer (song).

Generally, I don't read commentaries. Yet, these songs in the Bible are deep stuff. What are other people saying? Matthew Henry says Moses Song is bouncing back and forth between curse and blessings. I can see that. Deuteronomy 32:3 says *"I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God!"* Then we go into verse 5 with *"They are corrupt and not his children; to their shame they are a warped and crooked generation."* Why is this? The text around this chapter gives us an answer.

In Deuteronomy 31, God tells Joshua that Moses will die and that he will succeed him. The Law is read to remind the people of who God still is. Then God predicts that the people will fall away. I can't imagine the emotions Moses was feeling at this time. It's been 40 years of turmoil. All the leadership and work he put into the nation of Israel. Yet, God says Moses won't enter the land and the people will fall. Then in verse 19 it is God who writes a song to the tribes. Moses is to sing it to them.

So, why does this song (prayer) flip back and forth? It's because God has a song to tell. Moses was also lamenting towards the people. In so many ways this is a gripping scene of passion and pain. Is this really how the reign of Moses will end? The first 4 verses praise God. I think it is no mistake that Moses uses the words dew, rain, and abundant. He had experienced the Manna from heaven. It then goes on to use more words like rock and just. Imagine Moses regretting striking the rock. He is standing before the land he fought so desperately to enter. Yet, God is just, faithful, upright and can do no wrong. These first four verses have such painfully deep meaning. Think about how your prayers are constructed. Painful with meaning?

Verses 5-9 lead us into the remembrance of God verses. Who created you? Remember your heritage. Remember your elders. Our current generation is so smug about tearing everything down and sweeping the house clean. Matthew 12 tells the gripping story of cleaning a house (soul). What returns? God or demons? Verse 9 of Deuteronomy "*For the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance.*" It's so important that we keep what has been given. To respect the foundation the Lord allowed.

Verses 10-14 could be talking about several people. Is God talking about Jacob? How about Joseph? Is it the story of Abraham or Moses? It's quite possible that God is talking about Israel. Either way this is a good reminder in prayer. To pray is to give back to God his word. What if it was to remind ourselves of all the good work God has done. Jesus temple prayer exults God and prays for our daily bread and protect us from the evil one. It also says we should forgive as we have been forgiven. In a nut shell: what has God done for us? Deuteronomy 32:12 "*The Lord alone led him; no foreign god was with him.*"

In verse 15 we can tell who God is speaking of, it's Israel. How powerful is the line "they rejected the rock of their savior. So many Christians automatically place a verse like this on

Jesus. Yet, the writer did not know Jesus. There was no messiah at this time. They did (however) have the incident of the rock and water. Yet, the Lord provided and they still turned away with the golden calf. The rest of this song is God pouring out His heart towards the people. This is what they will do and I (the Lord) will watch and wait for them to fall. God will not forget His people and He will set things right in due time. Check out verses 34 and 35 *“Have I not kept this in reserve and sealed it in my vaults? It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near.”*

Some call this a song and others a lament. Yet, if you break it down into a prayer it can come across heartfelt. Honor the Lord. Admit your sins. Thank God for His mercy and forgiveness. Look forward in hope for the day of salvation. Above all, be assured that God will provide and God will rescue the saints. This begins as a technically tough piece of Scripture to understand. Yet, knowing your Bible will shout echoes to its meaning. Try using this in your prayer life. Who redeems you? How have you been saved and provided for. Then exalt the Lord who will give to those who call Him Lord.