

## THE LORD HIMSELF WILL DIRECT

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

### I. Time Came to Transfer Leadership

**A. Astounding as he was, Moses reached his limit.** “And *Moses* went and *spake* these words unto all Israel. And he said unto them, I *am* an hundred and twenty years old this day; *I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.*” (DEUTERONOMY 31:1-2)

**B. Moses lived half again as long as a person could be expected to live by his own reckoning.** “The days of our years *are threescore years and ten*; and if by reason of strength *they be fourscore* years, *yet is their strength labour and sorrow*; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.” (PSALM 90:10)

**C. God refused to let Moses enter the Promised Land because Moses lost his focus on the Lord.** “But *the LORD was wrath with me for your sakes*, and would not hear me: and the LORD said unto me, Let it suffice thee; *speak no more unto me of this matter*. Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and *behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan.*” (DEUTERONOMY 3:26-27) “Because *ye trespassed against me* among the children of Israel *at the waters of Meribah-Kadesh*, in the wilderness of Zin; *because ye sanctified me not in the midst of the children of Israel.*” (DEUTERONOMY 32:51)

### II. Moses Directed the Nation to Rely on God

**A. Israel must not worry about enemies as the fathers did and died in the Wilderness because protecting the people is God’s business to be done His way at His direction.** “And *the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og*, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, *whom he destroyed*. And *the LORD shall give them up before your face*, that *ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you.*” (Deuteronomy 31:4-5)

**B. Live boldly because God will accomplish His purposes.** “*Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*” (DEUTERONOMY 31:6)

**C. God always takes care of His own.** “But now *thus saith the LORD that created thee*, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, *Fear not: for I have redeemed thee*, I have called *thee* by thy name; *thou art mine*. When thou passest through the waters, *I will be with thee*; and through the *rivers*, they *shall not overflow* thee: when thou walkest through the fire, *thou shalt not be burned*; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. *For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom*, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. *Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee*: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. *Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;*” (ISAIAH 43:1-5)

**D. Moses called Joshua and charged him to lead God’s people to do what God directed them to do.** “And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, *Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people* unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and *thou shalt cause them to inherit* it. And *the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.*” (DEUTERONOMY 31:7-8)

### III. Reliance on Expresses Itself in Obedience to Scripture

**A. Moses wrote the Torah and entrusted it to teachers.** “And *Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests* the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, *and unto all the elders* of Israel.” (DEUTERONOMY 31:9) “*Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant* of the LORD your God, *that it may be there for a witness* against thee.” (DEUTERONOMY 31:26)

**B. The leaders were to read the Bible systematically to everyone.** “And Moses commanded them, saying, *At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles, When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD* thy God in the place which he shall choose, *thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing.* Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that *is* within thy gates, that they may hear, and ***that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law.***” (DEUTERONOMY 31:10-12)

**C. God’s people are the people of THE BOOK.** “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*” (2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17)

**D. The study of Scripture preserves the truth and the testimony across time.** “And ***that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD*** your God, ***as long as ye live in the land*** whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.” (DEUTERONOMY 31:13) “***The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.***” (PSALM 19:7)

**E. When the church is faithful to do as Moses taught it prospers.** “***We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD,*** and his strength, and ***his wonderful works*** that he hath done. For ***he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:*** THAT THE GENERATION TO COME MIGHT KNOW ***THEM, EVEN THE CHILDREN WHICH SHOULD BE BORN; WHO SHOULD ARISE AND DECLARE THEM TO THEIR CHILDREN:*** ***That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.***” (PSALM 78:4-8)

**F. Apart from Scripture there is no Church.** “***To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.***” (ISAIAH 8:20)

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