

“The Gospel According to Moses” Rediscovering the Grace of God in Deuteronomy

Veritas Class, College Church
November 7, 2010

I. Moses’ First Address: Remembering the Grace of Yahweh (Deuteronomy 1:6-4:40)

A. Recollections of Yahweh’s Grace to the Exodus Generation (1:6-2:1)

1. Recollections of Mount Horeb (6-18)

- a. The Lord’s Command to Move On (vv. 6-8)
- b. Moses’ Administrative Preparations (vv. 9-12)
 - (1) The Problem (vv. 9-10)
 - (a) The Nature of the Problem (v. 9)
 - (b) The Reason for the Problem (vv. 10-11)
 - (c) The Dilemma (v. 12)
 - (2) The Solution (vv. 13–17)
 - (a) The Proposal (v. 13)
 - (b) The People’s Response (v. 14)
 - (c) The Implementation (v. 15)
 - (d) The Charge (vv. 16-18)

2. Recollections of the Journey from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea (1:19)

3. Recollections of Kadesh Barnea: Rebellion and Its Consequences (1:20-46)

a. The Context of the Rebellion (vv. 20-25)

- (1) Moses’ Charge to Take the Land (vv. 20-21)
- (2) The People’s Response: The Reconnaissance Mission (vv. 22-25)
 - (a) The Request for the Mission (v. 22)
 - (b) The Permission for the Mission (v. 23)
 - (c) The Nature of the Mission (v. 24)
 - (d) The Results of the Mission (v. 25)

b. The Nature of the Rebellion (vv. 26-33)

- (1) The People’s Attitude (v. 26)
- (2) The People’s Speech (vv. 27-28)

- (a) Their Complaint against God (v. 27)
- (b) Their Complaint against the Scouts (v. 28)
- (3) Moses' Pastoral Response (vv. 29-31)
- (4) The People's Attitude (vv. 32-33)
- c. *Yahweh's Reaction to the Rebellion* (vv. 34-40)
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - The reference to Caleb triggers a pained interruption of Yahweh's speech (v. 37)
 - (3)
 - (4)

What's missing? (Numbers 14:13-19)

The Argument of Moses' Prayer

YHWH has invested great effort in saving the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt; by implication, to destroy them would mean this was effort was wasted (v. 13).

YHWH has been uniquely close to his people: he is in their midst and has been personally leading them; by implication, it makes no sense to destroy them (v. 14).

YHWH's reputation among the nations will be damaged if he destroys Israel; they will think that he slaughtered them in the desert because he was unable to carry through on his promise to give them the land (vv. 15–16).
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YHWH's gracious character is in question; he has proved himself merciful in the past—may he be gracious again and forgive his people (vv. 17–19).

- d. *The Outcome of the Rebellion* (vv. 41-46)
 - (1) The People's Response to Yahweh's Anger (v. 41)
 - (a) Their Speech (v. 41a)
 - (b) Their Actions (v. 41b)
 - (2) Yahweh's Response (v. 42)
 - (3) The People's Response (v. 43)
 - (4) The Results (vv. 44-45)
 - (a) The Military Fiasco (v. 44)
 - (b) The Spiritual Tragedy (v. 45)

e. Epilogue (v. 46)