

**Postscript to Israel’s National Anthem
The End Is at Hand
Deuteronomy 32:44–52
Veritas Class
January 14, 2018**

A. Postscript to Israel’s National Anthem

1. Reconstructing the Sequence of Events

2. Moses’ Final Plea

a. He appeals to the people to take the song seriously!

(1) As in the case of the Shema (6:4–9), they are to take it to heart (commit themselves personally to them).

(2) As in the case of the Shema, they are to pass it on to their children. This song has canonical status in perpetuity. Indeed, he give the Song the status of Torah (כְּלִי־דְבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת).

b. He declares that their very life depends upon their fidelity to this song.
“I am not kidding!” “This is no empty comment.” Cf. 6:20; 30:20.

B. The End is At Hand: YHWH’s Announcement of Moses’ Demise (32:48–52)

1. The Context of Moses’ Demise (v. 48)

2. The Announcement of Moses’ Demise (vv. 49–52)

Numbers 27:12–14 (43 words)	Deuteronomy 32:48–52(85 words)
<p>YHWH said to Moses, "Go up into this mountain of Abarim and view the land</p> <p>that I have given to the sons of Israel.</p> <p>When you have seen it, and you also shall be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother was</p> <p>because you rebelled against my word in the wilderness of Zin when the congregation quarreled,</p> <p>failing to uphold me as holy at the waters <i>before their eyes.</i>"</p> <p>These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.)</p>	<p>That very day YHWH spoke to Moses, "Go up this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, opposite Jericho, and view the land of Canaan, that I am giving to the sons of Israel for a possession. And <u>die</u> on the mountain which you go up, and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother <u>died</u> in Mount Hor and was gathered to his people, because you broke faith with me <i>in the midst of the sons of Israel</i> at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, and because you did not treat me as holy <i>in the midst of the sons of Israel.</i> For you may see the land before you, but you shall not go there, into the land that I am giving to the people of Israel."</p>

Differences in the Speeches:

- The geographic interest in Deut 32:49, heightens the pain of Moses in not being permitted to enter the land. Instead of entering “Canaan” he remains at mount Nebo, in the land of Moab, opposite Jericho.
- Instead of remaining with the euphemism of “being gathered to one’s people,” the two-fold reference to death (*mût*) in v. 20, first to his own death and then to Aaron’s heightens the tragedy.
- The insertion of “in the midst of Israel,” at the beginning of Deut 32:51, and then replacing of “before their eyes” in Num 27:14 with the same phrase at the end of the verse highlight the Moses’ corporate responsibility.
- The concluding sentence in v. 52 must have been the most painful of all.
 - a. His Commands (vv. 49–50)
 - (1) His Command to climb Mount Nebo (v. 49a)
 - (2) His Command to view the land of Canaan (v. 49b)
 - (3) His Command to die on the mountain (v. 50a)
 - (4) His Command to be buried on the mountain (v. 50b)
 - b. His Rationale (v. 51)
 - (1) Moses had acted treacherously at Meribah-Kadesh (v. 51a).
 - (2) Moses had failed to guard the sanctity of YHWH (v. 51b).
 - c. His Final Pronouncement (v. 52)