

ALL SAINTS: FULFILLING THE PROMISE

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Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD SHOWED him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.”

⁵Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. ⁶He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial

place to this day. ⁷Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired, and his vigor had not abated. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹Joshua, son of Nun, was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses. ¹⁰Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. ¹¹He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage(s) slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. The Hebrew people fled slavery in Egypt for a “promised land.” On the brink of entering that land, the one who had led them dies. What important projects, ministries, or causes in your life have you started or are

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participating in that you know you won't be able to finish because it is something that must carry on long after you are gone? How does the recognition that you won't be able to see it through impact your participation?

3. Moses is described as an unparalleled leader. Importantly, he prepared the next leader to succeed him.
 - a. Have you seen or experienced examples like this of leaders preparing future leaders to succeed them? What went well? What went wrong?
 - b. How are you preparing the next generation of leaders to succeed you at work, in your family, or in the church?
4. Paul describes church people as saints, and while this term can refer to those recognized as official Roman Catholic saints, the ordinary meaning is anyone who has devoted themselves to God and the work of God's love: from a pastor to a youth sponsor, from a church Elder to a Sunday School teacher, from a theologian to a community organizer. What saints of the past have influenced and inspired your faith—be it scriptural saints, historical saints, and/or people from your life?

5. Martin Luther King, Jr drew on the Moses mountaintop story in a speech he gave just before his assassination. Reflect on the long spiritual struggle for civil rights and economic justice, and what MLK's awareness and witness can teach us today as people of faith and action.

"Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop.

And I don't mind.

Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!

And so I'm happy tonight.

I'm not worried about anything.

I'm not fearing any man!

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!!

(King, "[I've Been to the Mountaintop](#)," 222–223)

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