

**Message #41****Deuteronomy 32:1-27**

Moses was nearing his death and God wanted him to write an anthem for the nation. He wanted the nation to see it, sing it and study it. He wanted this anthem memorized. It is not the kind of National Anthem any nation would write. We like patriotic songs that rev us up. We like singing those songs.

“Mine Eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.” Well here is a question, if your eyes have actually seen the glory of the coming of the Lord, what are you doing as a nation promoting godless things and living like pigs? If your eyes have seen the coming of the glory of the Lord, wouldn’t you think you might want to pursue a faith and lifestyle that would reflect His glory?

Just last week over by Lake Michigan they had an LGMNOPQGT gathering. At that gathering some were asked about the Supreme Court’s decision on Roe versus Wade. Their response was it scares us because we don’t know how that could impact us. Don’t you think you have bigger problems than that? Don’t you think your Sodom and Gomorrah lifestyle that Romans 1 says is unnatural abomination to God that will bring His wrath, should be more of a concern than that?

People are living in a delusional la la land and God tells Moses write a national anthem for Israel that tells them the truth. They need to see it. They need to read it. They need to remember it. They need to sing it and they need to study it.

What we have here is what God wanted His people to have:

**GOD HAD MOSES WRITE AN ETERNAL ANTHEM BECAUSE GOD’S PEOPLE NEED TO SEE AND KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD AND THE TRUTH ABOUT THEIR OWN PATHETIC SELVES.**

In **verses 1-2**, Moses prays to God and asks Him to permit him to have impacting teaching ministry that will impact the world. Carefully observe from **verse 1** that teaching presents words that come out of a mouth. It is the teaching of God’s word that refreshes and causes growth (**v. 2**).

He asks God to let his teaching drop as rain, as coming out of heaven. He wanted his teaching to refresh the world. Moses was about to die and what he would leave behind was the teaching of the written word of God.

Now the reason Moses wanted his teaching to be so impacting was because he told the truth about God and about man. There are six anthem themes that Moses develops in this anthem:

**ANTHEM THEME #1** – Moses’ anthem begins with the truth about God. **32:3-4**

Anything that will last starts and ends with God. God is eternal and His word is eternal. So the first thing Moses does in this anthem is begin with true doctrine about the character of God. Moses begins with nine glorious truths about God. He starts with right theology about God:

**(Truth #1)** - Moses' anthem proclaimed the name of the LORD. **32:3a**

There are three main proper nouns that Moses used for God in his writings:

The noun "LORD" (Jehovah) means that God is the sovereign, covenant God of Israel.

The noun "Lord" (Adonai) means that God is the sovereign controller of all.

The noun "God" (Elohim) means that God is the Triune, sovereign Creator of all things.

Moses says God's people need to begin with a proper grasp of the sovereignty of God and the proper name of God, which I have taught.

**(Truth #2)** - Moses' anthem challenged people to ascribe greatness to God. **32:3b**

The responsibility of God's people is not to question God, or criticize God or doubt God, but to ascribe greatness to God.

**(Truth #3)** - Moses' anthem taught that God is the Rock. **32:4a**

The fact that God is the Rock is alluded to seven times in this anthem (v. 4, 13, 13, 15, 18, 31, 37). God is the One upon whom one can build a lasting foundation. God is the source of strength. God is the refuge who can protect in times of trouble. He is our shelter and security. God is the Rock. There is no other being or thing that can say that. Later in this chapter Moses shows how foolish people are who make something else their rock (32:31).

We live in Michigan where Chevy claims its truck is like a Rock. In other words it is solid, dependable, hard working. They use as their theme a song written by Bob Seger. But here is something most people don't know. His song "like a rock" was written because of a relationship that only lasted 11 years. So in all reality the rock didn't last.

God is the Rock and He is the Rock forever. Moses said sing about that.

**(Truth #4)** - Moses' anthem taught that God's work is perfect. **32:4b**

There is not any imperfection in anything God designs, makes or does. Everything God is and does is perfect. Never forget this.

**(Truth #5)** - Moses' anthem taught that all of God's ways are just. **32:4c**

Moses wanted people to realize that God is about justice and righteousness and truth. Frankly, it is very serious when a Judge or an Attorney or a Jury does not do what is just and true and right. There is a serious court date coming for them before God and they will pay a very high price.

**(Truth #6)** - Moses' anthem taught that God is a faithful God. **32:4d**

God is faithful to Himself. He is faithful to His word. He is dependable and God's people need to know this about God. He is not a fickle God; He is a faithful God.

**(Truth #7)** - Moses' anthem taught God never did anything unjust. **32:4e**

God has never done anything unjust ever! God's people need to get this point. Whether it is positive or negative, whether we can explain it or we cannot explain it, this is the truth about God. He has never done anything unjust.

**(Truth #8)** - Moses' anthem taught that God is righteous. **32:4f**

Notice the text says, "He is righteous." This is His character. He is totally and completely righteous in everything He is, does, says and will do.

**(Truth #9)** - Moses taught that God is upright. **32:4g**

There is nothing crooked in God. God is upright.

Many of these terms are legal, courtroom terms. So this description of God specifically stands against the false allegations and charges that people may level against God.

**ANTHEM THEME #2** – Moses' anthem taught the truth about God's own people. **32:5**

Don't forget this song is a song written "against" God's own people (31:19). After Moses started his anthem with truth about God, he went next to truth about God's people. Moses says you need to see, read and sing this truth:

**(Truth #1)** - God's people have acted corruptly toward God. **32:5a**

God's people don't even act like they are people of God. He has all of these wonderful attributes and God's people are just the opposite.

**(Truth #2)** - God's people are defective people and don't act like God's people. **32:5b**

God's people don't even act like His children. They are defective.

**(Truth #3)** - God's people are perverse and crooked. **32:5c**

This is strong language that clearly says God's people did perverse and crooked things. These words imply that God's people did twisted and distorted things and, as Eugene Merrill said, they became "a grotesque mockery of what God created them to be" (*Deuteronomy*, p. 411).

**(Truth #4)** - God's people are foolish and unwise in their repayment to God. **32:6**

God was the One who is their Father. He is their sovereign, covenant LORD. God was the One who bought them. God was the one who made them and established them. They willingly turned away from the God who did so much for them and repaid God with their rebellion.

**ANTHEM THEME #3** – Moses’ anthem taught what God’s people need to remember. **32:7-14**

It is critical that God’s people remember their past. Moses was so emphatic about stressing this point that he said that they need to:

- 1) Remember the days of old. **32:7a**
- 2) Consider the years of all the generations. **32:7b**
- 3) Ask your father about God and life. **32:7c**
- 4) Ask the elders about God and life. **32:7d**

It is critical for the younger generation to talk with those who are of the older generation who can tell you the truth about God.

**(Reality #1)** - Remember how the Most High God gave the nations their inheritance. **32:8**

**(Reality #2)** - Remember how the Most High God separated the nations and set the boundaries of the people. **32:8**

**(Reality #3)** - Remember how the Most High God numbered the sons of Israel and gave each their portion and land allotment and inheritance. **32:8c-9**

**(Reality #4)** - Remember how God found Israel in a desert wilderness. **32:10a**

God uses the personal single pronoun “him” to not only point out the program with God is national, but also individual. God did this for the nation Israel, but He also does this for individuals. Nations are comprised of individuals. They were not flourishing and they were not going anywhere in life.

**(Reality #5)** - Remember how God encircled him and cared for him and guarded him. **32:10b**

Israel was so important to God that He guarded her like the pupil of His own eye.

**(Reality #6)** - Remember how God hovered over him and carried him. **32:11**

The image is that God watches over His people and cares for them as an eagle. He shelters His people and protects them and watches over them.

**(Reality #7)** - Remember how God alone guided him. **32:12**

There was no other God. There was no need of some foreign god, not when the Almighty, Lord God is on your side.

**(Reality #8)** - Remember God led him to land. **32:13a**

**(Reality #9)** - Remember God miraculously provided food for them. **32:13b-14**

**(Reality #10)** - Remember God prospered His people.

He gave them food and drink and produce and animals and herds and flocks.

Now Moses says ask the older people about what they have seen God do. Well there is a slight problem here. Since God's people have wandered away from God, where can we find those who will give us these memories? We can find the truth in the written word of God.

**ANTHEM THEME #4** – Moses' anthem taught the truth about what God's people did.  
**32:15-18**

After God had done so many wonderful things for His people, they did not take their relationship with God seriously. They did just the opposite. The word "Jeshurim" literally means one that is upright. It is a term that God used for Israel and this is what she should have become. But that is not what happened.

**Fact #1** - They became fat and undisciplined. **32:15**

Their fatness was due to the prosperity of God, but that prosperity did not lead them into a better relationship with God.

**Fact #2** - They forsook God. **32:15b**

**Fact #3** - They scorned God. **32:15c**

**Fact #4** - They made God jealous and angry by their abominations. **32:16**

**Fact #5** - They got involved in demonic religions. **32:17**

**Fact #6** - They neglected God. **32:18a**

**Fact #7** - They forgot God. **32:18b**

**ANTHEM THEME #5** – Moses' anthem teaches what God will do to His own people.  
**32:19-25**

There are ten negative actions God has taken against His own people:

**Negative Action #1** - The Lord has spurned His people. **32:19**

**Negative Action #2** - The Lord hides His face from His people. **32:20**

**Negative Action #3** - The Lord will make His people jealous and angry. **32:21**

Paul says that one way God has done this is by permitting His sovereign work to be seen in Gentiles. He has actually allowed those who are non-Jews to experience His blessings to make Israel jealous of the fact that she is missing out on a relationship with God.

**Negative Action #4** - The Lord's fiery anger will consume His people. **32:22**

Sheol is the place where the dead go and there is a part of it that is burning fire.

**Negative Action #5** - The Lord will heap misfortune on His people. **32:23a**

**Negative Action #6** - The Lord will shoot His arrows at His people. **32:23b**

**Negative Action #7** - The Lord will consume His people by famine and plague. **32:24a**

**Negative Action #8** - The Lord will destroy His people with predator animal attacks. **32:24b**

**Negative Action #9** - The Lord will destroy His people with venomous attacks. **32:24c**

**Negative Action #10** - The Lord will destroy all ages of people with war and terror. **32:25**

God basically says I will let you go into one battle after another and lose. The things described here will take place in the Great Tribulation and will be a prelude to Israel crying out to God and to Jesus Christ for deliverance.

**ANTHEM THEME #6** – Moses teaches that God would have destroyed the nation except their enemies would think they did it. **32:26-27**

The only reason God preserved Israel is because of His name. God did not want nations to brag about how they beat His people, when in fact it was God who was authorizing it.

How is that for a national anthem?