

DEUTERONOMY

A CHALLENGE TO A NEW GENERATION

GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE A SECURE FUTURE

BIG IDEA: We can trust God through the transitions in life.

DATE: Sunday, August 2, 2026

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 31:1-8; 26-27; 32:44-47

OPENING QUESTION

Why is there such an emphasis placed on a person's last words? Do you know of any famous last words? What would you want your last words to be?

SETTING THE STAGE

In this final section of Deuteronomy, we find the last words of Moses. A great deal of the Bible to this point has been about Moses. He had been a key leader since the time the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt. He gave us a record of the 120 years of his life. As he prepared to die, he proclaimed both warnings and blessings to the generation poised to claim the promised land.

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 31:1-8; 26-27; 32:44-47 (CSB)

Then Moses continued to speak these words to all Israel, ² saying, "I am now 120 years old; I can no longer act as your leader. The LORD has told me, 'You will not cross the Jordan.' ³ The LORD your God is the one who will cross ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will drive them out. Joshua is the one who will cross ahead of you, as the LORD has said. ⁴ The LORD will deal with them as he did Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and their land when he destroyed them. ⁵ The LORD will deliver them over to you, and you must do to them exactly as I have commanded you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For the LORD your God is the one who will go with you; he will not leave you or abandon you." ⁷ Moses then summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you will go with this people into the land the LORD swore to give to their ancestors. You will enable them to take possession of it. ⁸ The LORD is the one who will go before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or abandon you. Do not be afraid or discouraged."

²⁶ "Take this book of the law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God so that it may remain there as a witness against you. ²⁷ For I know how rebellious and stiff-necked you are. If you are rebelling against the LORD now, while I am still alive, how much more will you rebel after I am dead!

³² ⁴⁴ Moses came with Joshua son of Nun and recited all the words of this song in the presence of the people. ⁴⁵ After Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, ⁴⁶ he said to them, "Take to heart all these words I am giving as a warning to you today, so that you may command your children to follow all

the words of this law carefully. ⁴⁷ For they are not meaningless words to you but they are your life, and by them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."

DISCUSSION

TIME FOR A NEW LEADER

READ: Deuteronomy 31:1-8

- *How old was Moses at this point? What was his message to the people? How do you think they would have felt at this point?*
- *How well do you handle change? Why do you think that is?*
- *How does it strengthen your faith to know that God will never forsake you?*
- *What was the repeated encouragement to the people and to Joshua? Why was it important for the people and Joshua to hear this message?*

MOSES'S FINAL WARNING

READ: Deuteronomy 31:26-27

- *On a scale of 1 (no confidence) to 10 (complete confidence), how confident was Moses that the people would keep their covenant commitment to the Lord?*
- *Has much changed between these early followers of God and believers today? Why? Explain.*

MOSES'S FINAL WORDS

READ: Deuteronomy 32:44-47

- *What was Moses' challenge to the people in these verses? Why did Moses have to present similar challenges over and over again to the people? Are we any different in needing reminders?*
- *Would you live your life any differently if you knew for certain that you would die on a certain day?*
- *What are some challenges a new leader would face having to follow in Moses' footsteps?*
- *What are some challenges Pastor Tyler might have in following in Pastor's Spike's footsteps? How can we support him?*

As we prepare for a new leader at Chets Creek next Sunday, we can thank God for Pastor Spike's faithful leadership, and we can trust God in providing us a new leader to follow in Pastor Tyler. Change can be hard, but we have excitement for this next chapter in the life of our church. Commit to pray throughout this transition.

RESPONSE

Most of us will never know when our last words might be. What would you want to express? If you had to sum everything up in one important phrase or statement, what would it be? What are you doing to live up to these last words?