

## Gleanings from the Pentateuch

### Failure and Future Hope Deuteronomy 31-34

## Failure & Hope

### Concluding Narrative (Deut. 31-34)

- *Approaching death of Moses*
  - commissioning of Joshua
  - deposit of the book of the Law
  - Moses' blessing of the tribes
  - Moses' death and epitaph

## Failure & Hope

### A. Israel's Future Failure

1. The Lord's prediction (31:16-29)
  - Israel will turn to idolatry and forsake the Lord
  - He commanded Moses to write a song as a witness against the people

## Failure & Hope

### A. Israel's Future Failure

2. The Song of Moses (32:1-43)
  - Rehearses the Lord's gracious choice of and provision for Israel
  - Recounts Israel's unfaithfulness and the Lord's just, devastating judgment
  - Celebrates the Lord's ultimate triumph on behalf of His people (*including the nations*)

## Failure & Hope

### B. Moses' Past Failure

- The Lord reminded Moses of his failure to treat God as holy at Meribah
- Moses was allowed to see the promised land but not enter it
- Moses died outside the land of promise!

## Failure & Hope

### Lessons

1. The pervasive unbelief of natural man
  - Man is by nature dead in sin, willfully unbelieving and rebellious against God (Eph. 2:1-3)
  - God must graciously give "*a heart to know, eyes to see, ears to hear*" for any to have life

## Failure & Hope

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### Lessons

#### 2. The weakness of the Law

- The Law, which was good, did not have the power to overcome man's blind unbelief
- The inadequacy of the Law anticipated the need for a new, better covenant  
(Deut. 30:6; Jeremiah 31:31-34)

## Failure & Hope

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### Lessons

#### 3. The need for a better mediator

- One greater than Moses, one who never fails, must come to secure our inheritance
- Moses, as a unique prophet, is a type of Messiah to come (John 1:17-18)

## Failure & Hope

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### Romans 8:3-4

"For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirements of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."