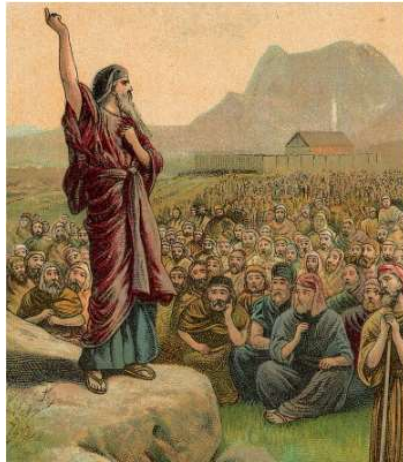


וְזֹאת הַבְּרָכָה
V'ZOT HA'BRACHA/AND THIS IS THE BLESSING
Devarim/Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12

Devarim/Deuteronomy 33:1 And this *is* the blessing with which Moshe the man of Elohim blessed the children of Israel before his death.



It's very interesting to read Moshe's parting words to his beloved Israelites. He could have taken the opportunity to really scold them. They had caused him a lot of heart-ache and trouble over the last 40 years. Their whining and complaining had driven him to the point of anger, resulting in loss of entrance into the Promised Land. There had been many times when Moshe, as a responsible leader, had to use words of exhortation and rebuke to motivate them to live up to their chosen status. And in his intercession, he pleaded for them, reminding יהוה that they were, after all, "**His people**":

Shemot/Exodus 33:13 ... And consider that this nation *is* **Your people**."

As we read through the Song of Moshe last week, we saw that Moshe knew of the Israelite's future idolatry and apostasy. But he also understood their future redemption – the end of their story. Anyone can see the faults in others, but it takes a truly great person to find the good in them. It takes work...discernment...to see the gold that is in the process of being refined.

Jeremiah 18:6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says יהוה. "Look, as the clay *is* in the potter's hand, so *are* you in My hand, O house of Israel!

It is very beautiful to see that Moshe ends his life with positive blessings over Israel. He speaks of their future greatness. Moshe holds no grudge for past trouble. He is able to rejoice in the future victory that will be for Israel. They would be able to enter the Land of Promise, the Land into which Moshe, himself, was denied entrance.

Moshe saw the sons of Israel through the eyes of יהוה. In spite of their sinfulness, he was able to see the good in them. Rav Sha'ul (Paul) also saw the good in Israel and the importance of standing with them:

Romans 9:4 who are Israelites, whose *is* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the lawgiving, and the service, and the promises

Sha'ul knew he could look with confidence to their bright future:

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

If יהוה can see all that good, worth, and potential in all of His imperfect people, shouldn't we see all the good, worth and potential in each other?

And so finally, we come to the death of Moshe:

Devarim 34:5 So Moshe the servant of יהוה (עֶבֶד־יְהוָה) died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of יהוה.

Wow, that's it? No poetic eulogy for this remarkable man? It is a final, simple description of Moshe – evad יהוה (עֶבֶד־יְהוָה) – “**Servant of יהוה**.” How can we understand how precious it was to יהוה that Moshe was his “**servant**”? A story is told of a king's “**servant**”...

Fredrick the Great, King of Prussia during the late 1700's, was reviewing his troops when he noticed a middle-aged soldier wearing an interesting ornament. Dangling from what appeared to be an heirloom watch-chain was the spent casing of a bullet. It had been polished and shined as it replaced a watch that the soldier obviously was unable to afford.



The king, in a playful mood, pulled his diamond-studded pocket watch from his vest and held it in the sunlight. As the rays glinted off the diamonds that surrounded its face he stared at his piece intently. Then he looked at the soldier.



“My dear soldier,” he said in mock concern as he tugged on the exquisite piece attached to its chain. “My timepiece says that it is half past one. What time does yours tell?”

The soldier looked down at the bullet.

“Your honor,” he declared with sincere humility. “The ornament that dangles from my watch chain, does not tell me the time. Rather it is a bullet.”

“A bullet!” scoffed the king. “Why on earth would you wear a bullet instead of a watch?”

“To me your honor, there are no hours, minutes, nor seconds. My watch tells me that every moment I am willing to take a bullet – even if it means my life for you, your Majesty.”

King Fredrick was so impressed with the soldier's reply that he promptly removed his exquisite royal watch and presented it to the soldier. (end of story)

People of this world look for accolades that personify their own wisdom, wealth, and accomplishment. יהוה looks for those whose whole lives are dedicated to serving the vision of the Kingdom, in practical as well as spiritual ways.

The greatest praise that the Creator of all things can reap upon his beloved are two Hebrew words (יהוה) – עבד – eved יהוה – **servant of יהוה**. Moshe was totally subservient to the will of his Creator making him a “**servant in all Yah’s house.**” Well done, good and “**faithful servant,**” Moshe!

Hebrews 3:5 and **Moshe** indeed *was* **faithful** in all his house, as an attendant, as **a servant** of those things that were to be spoken.

To be a “**servant of יהוה**” – those words say a lot. Moshe, like King Fredrick’s servant, dedicated Himself to be the property of His Master. And that exactly describes Yeshua as He “**took the form of a bondservant, humbling Himself, obedient to the point of death:**”

Philippians 2: 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Messiah Yeshua, ⁶ who, being in the form of Yah, did not consider it robbery to be equal with Yah, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.** ⁹ Therefore Yah also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Yeshua every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth

And thus, we close out another cycle of the Torah.... perhaps with another twist, another turn, the potter is continuing to fine-tune each of his vessels:



Be strong! Be strong! And may we be strengthened!

חזק חזק ונתחזק