

Deuteronomy 33

Verses 1 - 5

Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the sons of Israel before his death. ² He said,

**“The Lord came from Sinai,
And dawned on them from Seir;
He shone from Mount Paran,
And He came from the midst of myriads of holy ones;
At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them.**

**³ Indeed, He loves the people;
All Your holy ones are in Your hand,
And they followed in Your steps;
Everyone takes of Your words.**

**⁴ Moses issued to us *the* Law,
A possession for the assembly of Jacob.**

**⁵ And He was king in Jeshurun,
When the heads of the people gathered,
The tribes of Israel together.**

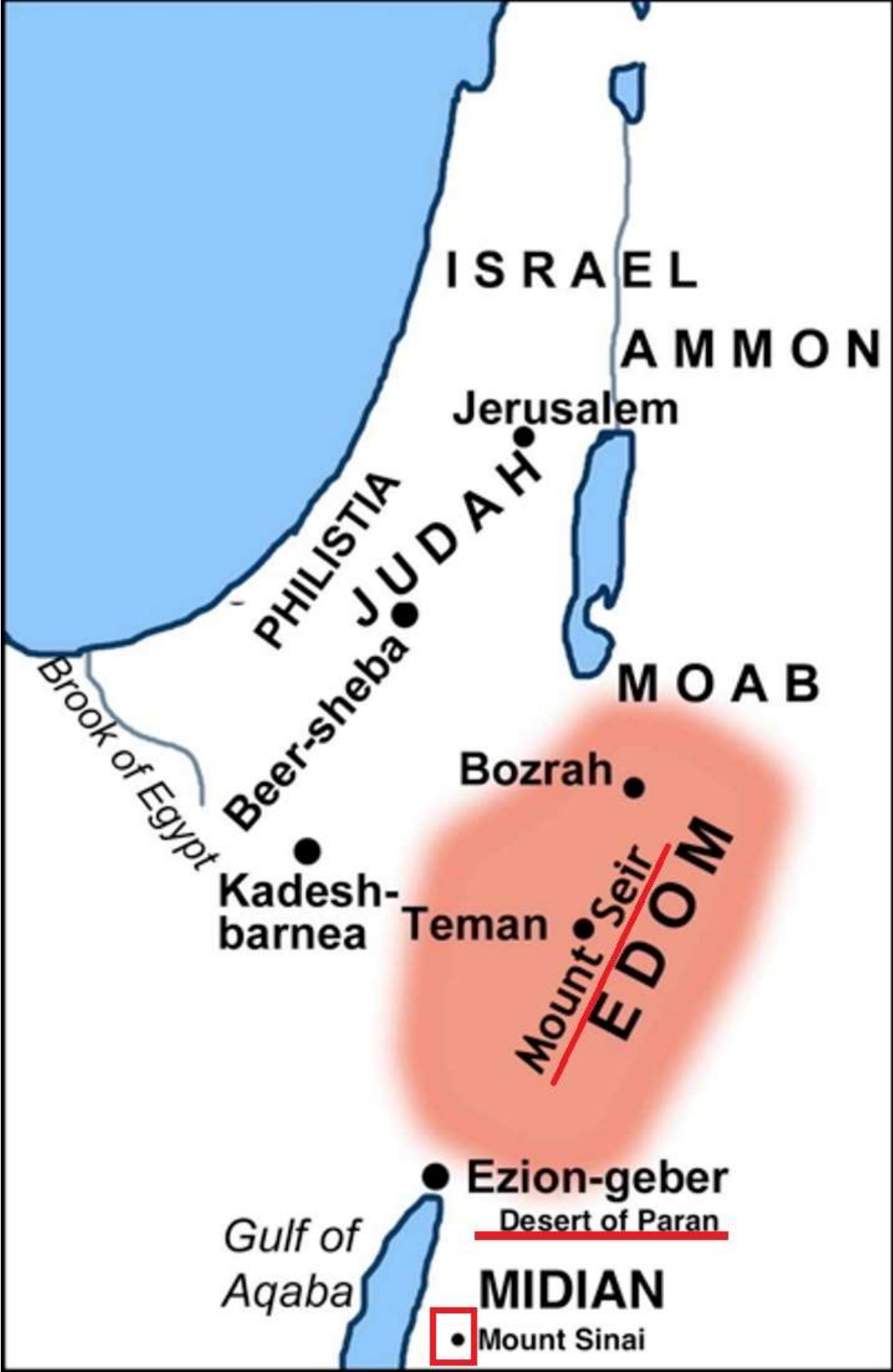
¹ Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the sons of Israel before his death.

Moses, as the spiritual leader of the Twelve Tribes pronounced a blessing on them just before his death much like a family head imparted blessings on his sons.

**“The Lord came from Sinai,
And dawned on them from Seir;
He shone from Mount Paran,**

The glory of God that was displayed on Mount Sinai slowly dissipated as Israel traveled to the North. Israel left Sinai (where His glory was displayed) and traveled north to mount Paran (where He shone) and then toward the Seir mountains in Edom (where He dawned on them).

See map 3305



**² And He came from the midst of myriads of holy ones;
At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them.**

Moses pictures God coming from His heavenly throne where He was surrounded by a very large number of angels.

This is the only Old Testament verse that could be used to support the idea that the angels came with God and were present at Sinai.

However, there are several N.T. scriptures that mention the role of angels in the giving of the law.

1. Acts 7:53

⁵³ you who received the Law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it.”

2. Galatians 3:19

¹⁹ Why the Law then? It was added on account of the violations, having been ordered through angels at the hand of a mediator, until the Seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

3. Hebrews 2:2

² For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every violation and act of disobedience received a just punishment, ³ how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

It is interesting that nothing is said about angels being present at the giving of the Law in neither the Exodus account nor anywhere else in the Old Testament except what is indicated here in verse 2.

And this verse does not definitively say the angels came with God to Sinai but rather that God came from their midst.

But when one reads Acts 7:53 it appears the Jews of that time (1st century) received it (the law) as ordained by angels.

If that is the case, then what Old Testament scriptures did they use to support this belief?

However, since 2 or 3 New Testament writers give credence to angels being present at the giving of the law then we can accept this as true.

**³ Indeed, He loves the people;
All Your holy ones are in Your hand,
And they followed in Your steps;
Everyone takes of Your words.**

God loves His people, therefore He wants his people to know his law and obey it because this will bring great blessings to them.

And He was king in Jeshurun,

Jeshurun is a poetic name for Israel.

God was the king of Israel and therefore the leader and law giver.

Verse 6 BLESSING OF REUBEN **1**

**“May Reuben live and not die,
Nor may his people be few.”**

Reuben was removed from the position of first-born because of his adultery with one of Jacob's concubines (Bilhah) but he was allowed to continue as one of the Twelve Tribes and would continue to grow in numbers.

Verse 7 BLESSING OF JUDAH **2**

And this was regarding Judah; so he said:

**“Hear, Lord, the voice of Judah,
And bring him to his people.
With his hands he contended for them,
And may You be a help against his adversaries.”**

This is a prayer that God would make Judah victorious over their enemies.

Jacob gave a more detailed blessing to Judah.

See Genesis 49:8-10

Of Levi he said,

**“Let Your Thummim and Your Urim *belong* to Your godly man,
Whom You tested at Massah,
With whom You contended at the waters of Meribah;
⁹ Who said of his father and his mother,
‘I did not consider them’;
And he did not acknowledge his brothers,
Nor did he regard his own sons,
For they kept Your word,
And complied with Your covenant.
¹⁰ They will teach Your ordinances to Jacob,
And Your Law to Israel.
They shall put incense before You,
And whole burnt offerings on Your altar.
¹¹ Lord, bless his strength,
And accept the work of his hands;
Smash the hips of those who rise up against him,
And those who hate him, so that they do not rise *again*.”**

**“Let Your Thummim and Your Urim *belong* to Your godly man,
Whom You tested at Massah,
With whom You contended at the waters of Meribah;**

The Thummin & Urim were in the breastpiece of the High priest.

See Exodus 28:30

There were two places that were called Meribah:

1. Exodus 17:1-7
2. Numbers 20:1-13

The place called Meribah in numbers 20 is the one that is made reference to here.

We know this because this was the occasion when God tested Moses and Aaron.

They failed the test when Moses called the people “rebels” and took credit for the water that God had supplied.

**⁹ Who said of his father and his mother,
'I did not consider them';
And he did not acknowledge his brothers,
Nor did he regard his own sons,
For they kept Your word,
And complied with Your covenant.**

This is a reference to three different circumstances.

1. His father & mother

See Leviticus 21:10-11

¹⁰ 'The priest who is highest among his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil has been poured and who has been consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head nor tear his clothes; ¹¹ nor shall he approach any dead person, nor defile himself even for his father or his mother;

2. His brothers (fellow Israelites)

This is a reference to the golden calf incident when Moses instructed the Levites to "kill every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor".

The Levites killed 3,000 of their fellow Israelites.

See Exodus 32:25-29

3. His sons

See Leviticus 10:1 - 6

**¹⁰ They will teach Your ordinances to Jacob,
And Your Law to Israel.
They shall put incense before You,
And whole burnt offerings on Your altar.**

The Levites had two main duties:

1. To teach Israel the law
2. And to offer sacrifices to the lord at the Tabernacle

The tribe of Levi was given this great blessing because of their faithfulness to God during the golden calf incident.

Of Benjamin he said,

**“May the beloved of the Lord live in security beside Him
Who shields him all the day *long*,
And he lives between His shoulders.”**

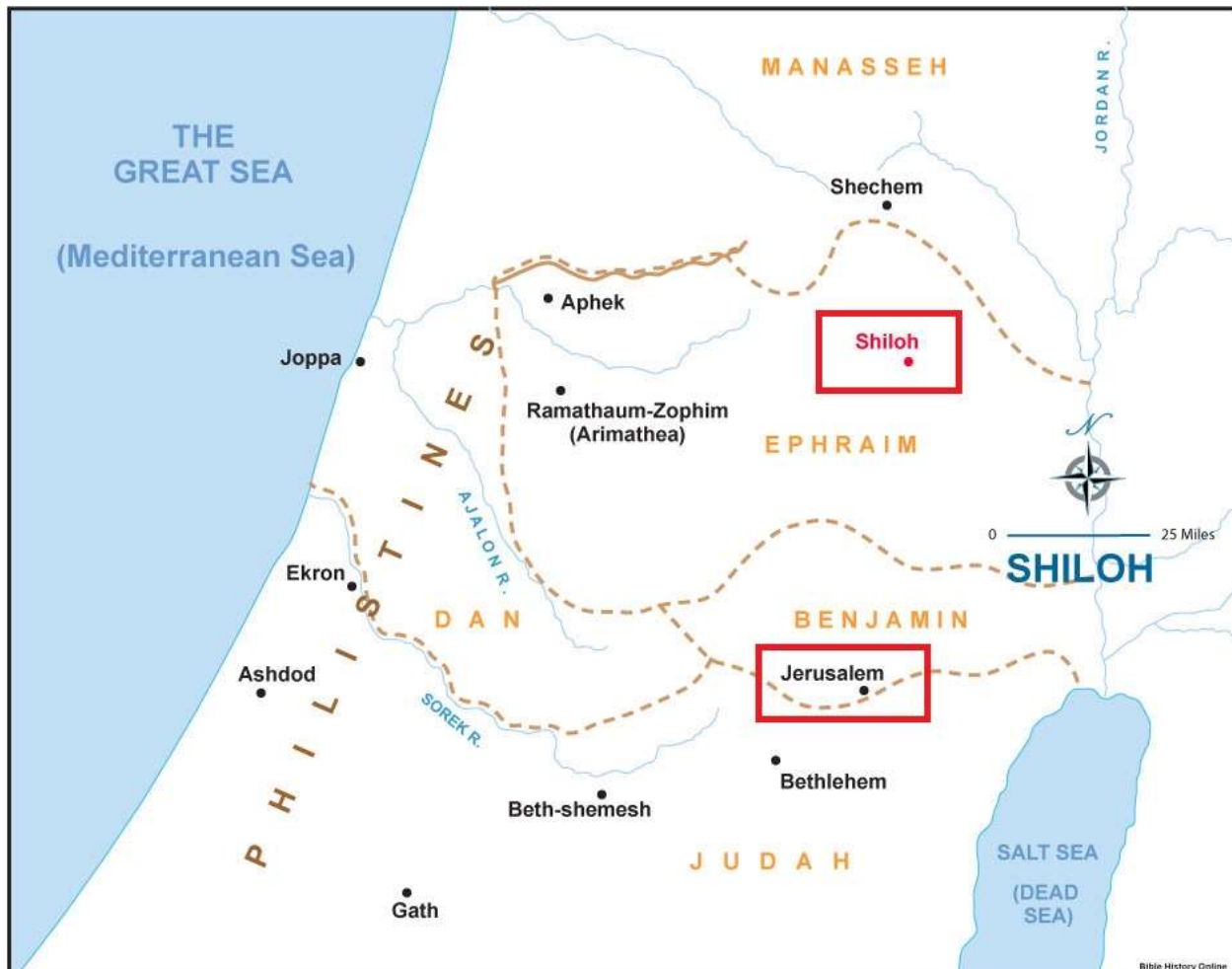
Benjamin was the last son of Jacob and dearly loved by his father.

In his blessings Moses does not follow the birth order of Jacob's male children.

The birth order was Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin.

The Tabernacle was in Shiloh (The tribe of Ephraim) for over 300 years but the Temple of Solomon was in the city of Jerusalem (The tribe of Benjamin).

See map 3310



Of Joseph he said,

**“Blessed of the Lord *be* his land,
With the choice things of heaven, with the dew,
And from the deep *waters* lying beneath,
¹⁴ And with the choice yield of the sun,
And the choice produce of the months;
¹⁵ And with the best things of the ancient mountains,
With the choice things of the everlasting hills,
¹⁶ And with the choice things of the earth and its fullness,
And the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush.
Let it come to the head of Joseph,
And to the top of the head of the *one who was* prince among his brothers.
¹⁷ As the firstborn of his ox, majesty is his,
And his horns are the horns of the wild ox;
With them he will gore the peoples
All at once, *to* the ends of the earth.
And those are the ten thousands of Ephraim,
And those are the thousands of Manasseh.”**

**“Blessed of the Lord *be* his land,
With the choice things of heaven, with the dew,
And from the deep *waters* lying beneath,
¹⁴ And with the choice yield of the sun,
And the choice produce of the months;
¹⁵ And with the best things of the ancient mountains,
With the choice things of the everlasting hills,
¹⁶ And with the choice things of the earth and its fullness,**

Joseph was Jacobs’s favorite son. He received the coat of many colors and was given a position of authority over his brothers.

When he was sold as a slave and ended up in Egypt he once again was put in several positions of authority and finally became second in command only to the king.

Many of the physical blessings that God promised to all of Israel if they kept the law were repeated here but with the caveat that they would be the choicest.

See pic 3315

The Blessings at Mount Gerizim

1. The Lord your God will put you high above all the nations of the earth
2. The Lord will cause your enemies to be defeated
3. The Lord will command the blessing for you in your barns
4. And in everything that you put your hand to
5. The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself
6. So all the peoples of the earth will be afraid of you
7. And the Lord will give you more than enough prosperity
8. In the children of your womb
9. In the offspring of your livestock
10. And in the produce of your ground
11. The Lord will give rain to your land in its season
12. And to bless every work of your hand
13. And you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow
14. And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail

**¹⁷ As the firstborn of his ox, majesty is his,
And his horns are the horns of the wild ox;
With them he will gore the peoples
All at once, to the ends of the earth.**

In 930 BC the tribe of Ephraim led the 10 northern tribes in a successful revolt against the south and established the Kingdom of Israel, with Jeroboam I, as king.

The seventh king of Israel, Ahab was also from the tribe of Ephraim. His evil wife Jezebel was a strong woman which complemented any weakness in Ahab.

And those are the ten thousands of Ephraim,
And those are the thousands of Manasseh.”

The two tribes of Ephraim & Manasseh occupied a huge part of the land in Israel.

See map 3320



Jacob adopted Ephraim and Manasseh as his sons so each of them were given the status of a full tribe.

By doing this Joseph inherited the right of the first-born and ended up with twice as much as his other brothers.

Moses confirmed the superiority of Ephraim over Manasseh by assigning 10,000's to Ephraim and 1000's to Manasseh.

Verses 18 – 19 BLESSING OF ZEBULUN AND ISAACHAR **7 & 8**

Of Zebulun he said,

**“Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out,
And, Issachar, in your tents.
¹⁹ They will call peoples to the mountain;
There they will offer righteous sacrifices;
For they will draw out the abundance of the seas,
And the hidden treasures of the sand.”**

Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out

Moses is making a reference to the commercial pursuits of the tribe.

And, Issachar, in your tents.

This is a reference to their nomadic life style.

Verses 20 – 21 BLESSING OF GAD **9**

Of Gad he said,

**“Blessed is the one who enlarges Gad;
He lies down as a lion,
And tears the arm, also the crown of the head.
²¹ Then he selected the choicest part for himself,
For there the ruler's portion was reserved;
And he came with the leaders of the people;
He executed the justice of the Lord,
And His ordinances with Israel.”**

**“Blessed is the one who enlarges Gad;
He lies down as a lion,
For there the ruler’s portion was reserved;
He executed the justice of the Lord**

See 1 Chronicles 12:8-15

⁸ From the Gadites valiant mighty men went over to David at the stronghold in the wilderness, men trained for war who could handle a large shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and *they were* as swift as the gazelles on the mountains.

¹⁴ These men from the sons of Gad were captains of the army; the one who was least was equal to a hundred, and the greatest, to a thousand. ¹⁵ These are the ones who crossed the Jordan in the first month, when it was overflowing all its banks, and they put to flight all those in the valleys, to the east and to the west.

The events that took place in the verses quoted above occurred 400 years after Moses said this about the tribe.

Verse 22 BLESSING OF DAN 10

²² Of Dan he said, “Dan is a lion’s cub; He leaps out from Bashan.”

Part of the tribe of Dan captured the town of Laish in the land of Bashan.

See map 3325



This event took place during the time of the Judges around 1375 to 1350 BC

See Judges 18

This area was very productive and beautiful.

See Video 3330 8.29 Tribe of Dan

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.29.html>

Verse 23 BLESSING OF NAPHTALI

11

Of Naphtali he said,

“Naphtali, satisfied with favor,
And full of the blessing of the Lord,
Take possession of the sea and the south.”

This refers to the Sea of Galilee.

See map 3335



Of Asher he said,

**“More blessed than sons is Asher;
May he be favored by his brothers,
And may he dip his foot in olive oil.
²⁵ Your bars will be iron and bronze,
And as your days, so *will* your strength *be*.**

**May he be favored by his brothers,
And may he dip his foot in olive oil.
And as your days, so *will* your strength *be*.**

There are several blessing mentioned:

1. Their popularity with the other tribes
2. A wealthy life style

This was in part because of the trade routes via the Mediterranean Sea.

3. Long life and strength

Verses 26 - 29

**“There is no one like the God of Jeshurun,
Who rides the heavens to your help,
And the clouds in His majesty.
²⁷ The eternal God is a hiding place,
And underneath are the everlasting arms;
And He drove out the enemy from you,
And said, ‘Destroy!’
²⁸ So Israel lives in security,
The fountain of Jacob secluded,
In a land of grain and new wine;
His heavens also drip down dew.
²⁹ Blessed are you, Israel;
Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord,
The shield of your help,
And He who is the sword of your majesty!
So your enemies will cringe before you,
And you will trample on their high places.”**

**“There is no one like the God of Jeshurun,
Who rides the heavens to your help,
And the clouds in His majesty.**

How many times did God help Israel during the last 40 years?

1. The 10 plagues that preceded their freedom.
2. The fire and cloud that protected them from the army of the king.
3. The passage thru the Red Sea.
4. The water and food during 40 years in the wilderness.
5. Over 14,000 days of Manna and water for 2.5 million people.

**²⁷ The eternal God is a hiding place,
And underneath are the everlasting arms;
And He drove out the enemy from you,**

God not only supplied all their needs He was also their guardian.

**²⁸ So Israel lives in security,
In a land of grain and new wine;
His heavens also drip down dew.**

This looks ahead to their days in Canaan after the takeover when they will eat the best food and have readymade vineyards.