

Be Strong and Courageous

Deuteronomy 31:1-29



Deuteronomy 31:1-3

So Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel.

And he said to them, “I am a hundred and twenty years old today; I am no longer able to come and go, and the LORD has said to me, ‘You shall not cross this Jordan.’

It is the LORD your God who will cross ahead of you;

He will destroy these nations before you,
and you shall dispossess them.

Joshua is the one who will cross ahead of you,
just as the LORD has spoken.

Deuteronomy 31:4-6

The LORD will do to them just as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when He destroyed them. The LORD will deliver them up before you, and you shall do to them according to all the commandments which I have commanded you. Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:7-8

Then Moses called to Joshua and said to him
in the sight of all Israel,

“Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people
into the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers
to give them, and you shall give it to them as an inheritance.

The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you;
He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.
Do not fear or be dismayed.”

Deuteronomy 31:9-11

So Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel. Then Moses commanded them, saying,
“At the end of every seven years, at the time of the year of remission of debts, at the Feast of Booths, when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place which He will choose, you shall read this law in front of all Israel in their hearing.

Deuteronomy 31:12-13

“Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and fear the LORD your God, and be careful to observe all the words of this law. Their children, who have not known, will hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live on the land which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.”

Deuteronomy 31:14-16

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, the time for you to die is near; call Joshua, and present yourselves at the tent of meeting, that I may commission him.”

So Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves at the tent of meeting. The LORD appeared in the tent in a pillar of cloud, and the pillar of cloud stood at the doorway of the tent.

The LORD said to Moses, “Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers; and this people will arise and play the harlot with the strange gods of the land, into the midst of which they are going, and will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.

Deuteronomy 31:17-18

“Then My anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide My face from them, and they will be consumed, and many evils and troubles will come upon them; so that they will say in that day, ‘Is it not because our God is not among us that these evils have come upon us?’ But I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they will do, for they will turn to other gods.”

Deuteronomy 31:19-20

“Now therefore, write this song for yourselves, and teach it to the sons of Israel; put it on their lips, so that this song may be a witness for Me against the sons of Israel. For when I bring them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and are satisfied and become prosperous, then they will turn to other gods and serve them, and spurn Me and break My covenant.

Deuteronomy 31:21-22

“Then it shall come about,
when many evils and troubles have come upon them,
that this song will testify before them as a witness
(for it shall not be forgotten from the lips of their descendants);
for I know their intent which they are developing today,
before I have brought them into the land which I swore.”
So Moses wrote this song the same day,
and taught it to the sons of Israel.

Deuteronomy 31:23

Then He commissioned Joshua the son of Nun, and said,
“Be strong and courageous,
for you shall bring the sons of Israel into the land
which I swore to them, and I will be with you.”

Deuteronomy 31:24-27

It came about, when Moses finished writing the words of this law in a book until they were complete, that Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying,

“Take this book of the law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may remain there as a witness against you. For I know your rebellion and your stubbornness; behold, while I am still alive with you today, you have been rebellious against the LORD; how much more, then, after my death?

Deuteronomy 31:28-29

“Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officers,
that I may speak these words in their hearing
and call the heavens and the earth to witness against them.
For I know that after my death you will act corruptly
and turn from the way which I have commanded you;
and evil will befall you in the latter days,
for you will do that which is evil in the sight of the LORD,
provoking Him to anger with the work of your hands.”

Main Point

The LORD knows the condition of souls and graciously gives His people what they need so that they may respond rightly to Him and fight courageously for Him.

Strong and Courageous

What is the condition of souls?

courage

What is the condition of souls?

Corrupt

Deuteronomy 31:16-17

The LORD said to Moses, “Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers; and this people will arise and play the harlot with the strange gods of the land, into the midst of which they are going, and will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.

Deuteronomy 31:26-27

“Take this book of the law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may remain there as a witness against you. **For I know your rebellion and your stubbornness**; behold, while I am still alive with you today, you have been rebellious against the LORD; how much more, then, after my death?”

By nature, their souls were corrupt, leading to persistent stubbornness and rebellion.

Apart from grace, there is no substantive difference between the condition of their souls and the condition of ours.

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

Romans 2:5

But because of your **stubbornness** and **unrepentant** heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

What is the condition of souls?

Corrupt

Condemned

Deuteronomy 31:17-18

“Then My anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide My face from them, and they will be consumed, and many evils and troubles will come upon them; so that they will say in that day, ‘Is it not because our God is not among us that these evils have come upon us?’ But I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they will do, for they will turn to other gods.”

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and I will forsake them and hide My face from them,
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‘Is it not because our God is not among us
that these evils have come upon us?’

But **I will surely hide My face in that day**

because of all the evil which they will do,
for they will turn to other gods.”

The inevitability of their
condemnation was due to the
rebellious condition of their souls
apart from grace.

Romans 2:5

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

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Inevitability apart from grace!

Romans 2:5

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart

you are storing up wrath for yourself

in the day of wrath
and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

The corrupted soul is enslaved
to sin and ensnared by Satan and
without hope of redemption
apart from grace!

Strong and Courageous

What is the condition of souls?

What does the LORD give
for the care of souls?

courage

What does the LORD graciously give?

Revelation

Deuteronomy 31:9

So Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.

Deuteronomy 29:29

...**the things revealed** belong to us
and to our sons forever...

What a gracious gift!

Deuteronomy 31:9

So Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.

Deuteronomy 29:29

...the things revealed **belong to us**
and to our sons forever...

As we have seen, God gave His Law as a gracious revelation of Himself and as a revelation of His gracious and righteous covenant.

Even so, the Lord must make known!

Matthew 11:27

All things have been handed over to Me by My Father;
and no one knows the Son except the Father;
nor does anyone know the Father except the Son,
and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

A gracious gift!

Matthew 11:27

All things have been handed over to Me by My Father;
and no one knows the Son except the Father;
nor does anyone know the Father except the Son,

and anyone **to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.**

What does the LORD graciously give?

Revelation

Instruction

Deuteronomy 31:10-11

Then Moses commanded them, saying,
“At the end of every seven years, at the time of the year
of remission of debts, at the Feast of Booths,
when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God
at the place which He will choose, you shall **read this law**
in front of all Israel in their hearing.

Deuteronomy 31:12-13

“Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and fear the LORD your God, and be careful to observe all the words of this law. Their children, who have not known, will hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live on the land which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.”

Deuteronomy 31:12-13

“Assemble the people, the men and the women and children

and the alien who is in your town, **so that they may**

hear and learn and fear the LORD your God,

and be careful to observe all the words of this law.

Their children, who have not known, will hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live on the land which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.”

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and the alien who is in your town, so that they may
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and be careful to observe all the words of this law.

Their children, who have not known, **will hear and learn
to fear the LORD** your God, as long as you live on the land
which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.”

Deuteronomy 31:19

“Now therefore, write this song for yourselves,
and **teach it to the sons of Israel;**
put it on their lips, so that this song may be a witness
for Me against the sons of Israel.

Corrupted souls need instruction,
and the Lord has provided all that
we need for our learning.

Our Call to Instruct

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

What does the LORD graciously give?

Revelation

Instruction

Warnings

Deuteronomy 31:17-18

“Then My anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide My face from them, and they will be consumed, and many evils and troubles will come upon them; so that they will say in that day, ‘Is it not because our God is not among us that these evils have come upon us?’ But I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they will do, for they will turn to other gods.”

Deuteronomy 31:19-21

“Now therefore, write this song for yourselves,
and teach it to the sons of Israel; put it on their lips, so that
this song may be a witness for Me against the sons of Israel...

...Then it shall come about, when many evils
and troubles have come upon them,
that this song will testify before them as a witness.

The LORD's warnings are a means of grace serving to preserve the souls of His people while demonstrating the rebelliousness of the unbeliever.

His warnings now?

Hebrews 10:26-27

For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and *the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.*

Warnings like this benefit believers
but harden hypocrites.

Strong and Courageous

What is the condition of souls?

What does the LORD give for the care of souls?

What is the right response
to what God gives?

courage

What is the right response?

Fearless Faith

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous,
do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD
your God is the one who goes with you.
He will not fail you or forsake you.

This is a call to fearless faith!

It is a call to believe in the LORD alone!

Deuteronomy 31:3-5

It is the LORD your God who will cross ahead of you;
He will destroy these nations before you,
and you shall dispossess them.

Joshua is the one who will cross ahead of you,
just as the LORD has spoken.

The LORD will do to them just as He did to Sihon and Og,
the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when He
destroyed them. The LORD will deliver them up before you.

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the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when He

destroyed them. **The LORD will deliver them up** before you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Therefore, be strong and courageous,
do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD
your God is the one who goes with you.
He will not fail you or forsake you.

Exercise a Fearless Faith!

Deuteronomy 31:6

Therefore, be strong and courageous,

do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD

your God is the one who goes with you.

He will not fail you or forsake you.

Trust in the LORD!

Deuteronomy 31:6

Therefore, be strong and courageous,

do not be afraid or tremble at them, **for the LORD**

your God is the one who goes with you.

He will not fail you or forsake you.

He is faithful!

Deuteronomy 31:6

*Therefore, be strong and courageous,
do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD
your God is the one who goes with you.*

He will not fail you or forsake you.

A Charge to Leaders

Deuteronomy 31:7-8

Then Moses called to Joshua and said to him
in the sight of all Israel,

“Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people
into the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers
to give them, and you shall give it to them as an inheritance.

The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you;
He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.

Do not fear or be dismayed.”

A Charge to Us

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, be strong in the Lord
and in the strength of His might.

Be strong and courageous;
do not fear or tremble, for it is
the Lord who goes with us!



What is the right response?

Fearless Faith

Devoted Obedience

Deuteronomy 31:5

The LORD will deliver them up before you,
and **you shall do to them according to all
the commandments which I have commanded you.**

Obeying all that God commanded in
reference to their conquests would require
faith and would be a display of devotion.

Deuteronomy 30:2

...obey Him with all your heart and soul
according to all that I command you today.

To obey with all your heart and soul is
to devote yourself to obedience in love.

What is the right response?

Fearless Faith

Devoted Obedience

Courageous Militancy

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous,
do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD
your God is the one who goes with you.
He will not fail you or forsake you.

**This is a call to courageous
military action!**

Our Call to Courageous Militancy

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

A Commissioning Overlay

Matthew 28:19-20

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Our Call to Courageous Militancy

Ephesians 6:10-13

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore, take up the full armor of God...

Conclusion

From an atheistic standpoint, there are many reasons to be afraid; but for those who belong to Christ, there is every reason for courage!

We are called to a fight, to a militant advance of the gospel; and we have been given every resource needed for the mission.

Do not be afraid or tremble at them!