

A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a gravel road that curves through a valley. The foreground is dominated by the grey gravel of the road. The middle ground features a dense forest of evergreen trees with some yellowing foliage, suggesting autumn. Beyond the forest is a vast, open valley with golden-brown fields. In the background, a range of rugged, brown mountains stretches across the horizon under a cloudy sky.

The Final Days of Moses the Man of God

Deuteronomy 32:48 – 34:12

Deuteronomy 32:48-52

The LORD spoke to Moses that very same day, saying,

“Go up to this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab opposite Jericho, and look at the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the sons of Israel for a possession.

Then die on the mountain where you ascend, and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people, because you broke faith with Me in the midst of the sons of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, because you did not treat Me as holy in the midst of the sons of Israel. For you shall see the land at a distance, but you shall not go there, into the land which I am giving the sons of Israel.

Deuteronomy 33:1-2

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

He said, “The LORD came from Sinai,
And dawned on them from Seir;
He shone forth from Mount Paran,
And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones;
At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them.

Deuteronomy 33:3-5

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

Moses charged us with a law,
A possession for the assembly of Jacob.

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

Deuteronomy 33:6-7

“May Reuben live and not die,
Nor his men be few.”

And this regarding Judah; so he said,
“Hear, O 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.”

Deuteronomy 33:8-11

Of Levi he said,
“Let Your Thummim and Your Urim belong to Your godly man,
Whom You proved at Massah,
With whom You contended at the waters of Meribah;
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 observed Your word,
And kept Your covenant.
They shall teach Your ordinances to Jacob,
And Your law to Israel.
They shall put incense before You,
And whole burnt offerings on Your altar.
O LORD, bless his substance,
And accept the work of his hands;
Shatter the loins of those who rise up against him,
And those who hate him, so that they will not rise again.”

Deuteronomy 33:12

Of Benjamin he said,
“May the beloved of the LORD dwell in security by Him,
Who shields him all the day,
And he dwells between His shoulders.”

Deuteronomy 33:13-17

Of Joseph he said,
“Blessed of the LORD be his land,
With the choice things of heaven, with the dew,
And from the deep lying beneath,
And with the choice yield of the sun,
And with the choice produce of the months.
And with the best things of the ancient mountains,
And with the choice things of the everlasting hills,
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 crown of the head of the one distinguished
among his brothers.”

Deuteronomy 33:13-17

“As the firstborn of his ox, majesty is his,
And his horns are the horns of the wild ox;
With them he will push 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.”

Deuteronomy 33:18-21

Of Zebulun he said,
“Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going forth,
And, Issachar, in your tents.
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.”

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.
Then he provided the first 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.”

Deuteronomy 33:22-25

Of Dan he said,
“Dan is a lion’s whelp,
That leaps forth from Bashan.”

Of Naphtali he said,
“O Naphtali, satisfied with favor,
And full of the blessing of the LORD,
Take possession of the sea and the south.”

Of Asher he said,
“More blessed than sons is Asher;
May he be favored by his brothers,
And may he dip his foot in oil.
Your locks will be iron and bronze,
And according to your days, so will your leisurely walk be.”

Deuteronomy 33:26-27

“There is none like the God of Jeshurun,
Who rides the heavens to your help,
And through the skies in His majesty.
The eternal God is a dwelling place,
And underneath are the everlasting arms;
And He drove out the enemy from before you,
And said, ‘Destroy!’”

Deuteronomy 33:28-29

“So Israel dwells in security,
The fountain of Jacob secluded,
In a land of grain and new wine;
His heavens also drop down dew.

Blessed are you, O Israel;
Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD,
Who is the shield of your help
And the sword of your majesty!
So your enemies will cringe before you,
And you will tread upon their high places.”

Deuteronomy 34:1-4

Now Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho.

And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, and all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, and the Negev and the plain in the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

Then the LORD said to him,

“This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.”

Deuteronomy 34:5-8

So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab,
according to the word of the LORD.

And He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab,
opposite Beth-peor; but no man knows his burial place to this day.
Although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died,
his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated.

So the sons of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days;
then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses came to an end.

Deuteronomy 34:9-12

Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom,
for Moses had laid his hands on him;
and the sons of Israel listened to him
and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

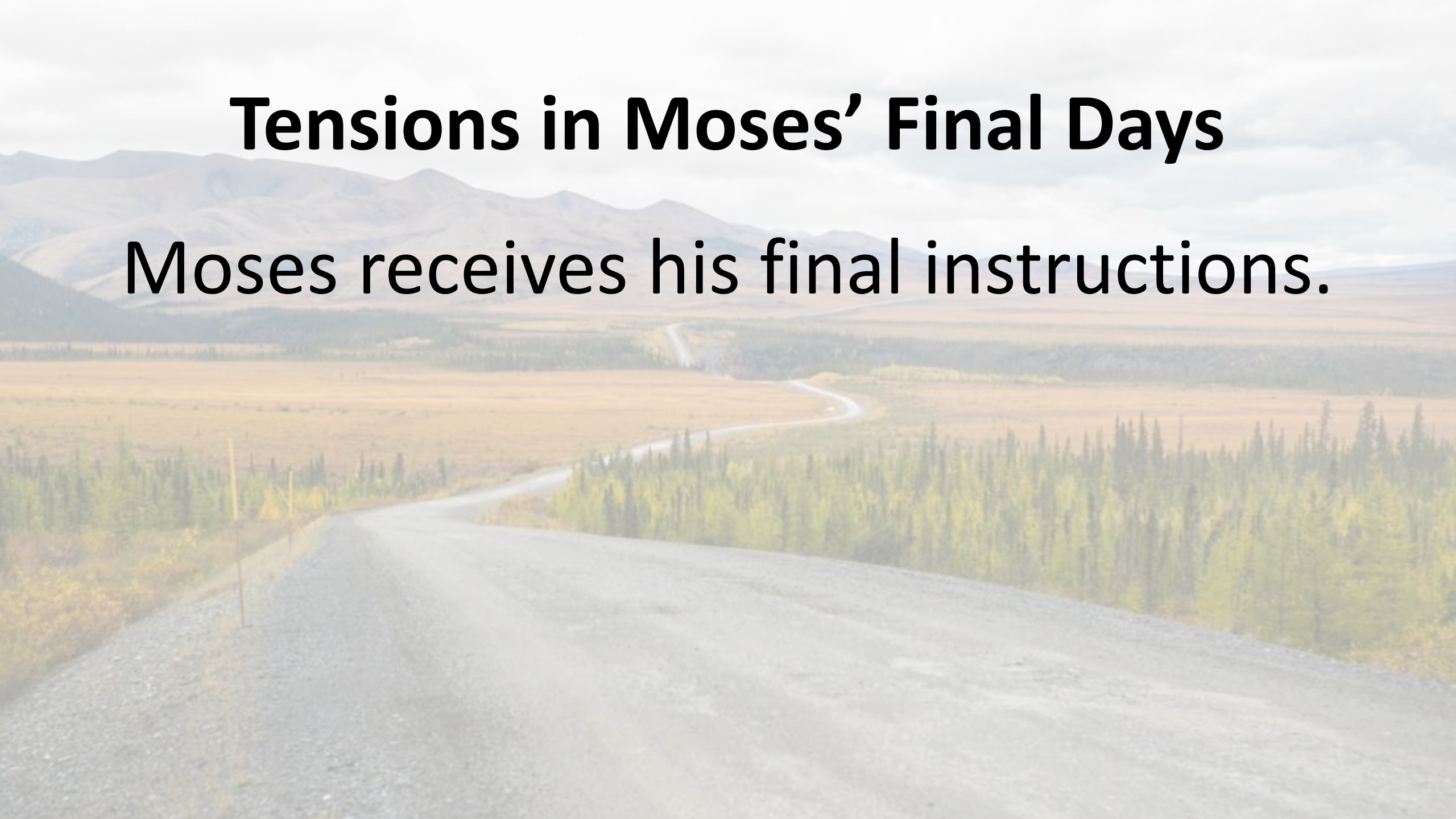
Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses,
whom the LORD knew face to face,
for all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him
to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh,
all his servants, and all his land,
and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror
which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Main Idea

Moses exemplifies the tensions between the corruptions of sin and the gifts of grace, and his final days highlight these things and point us to our need for the grace found in Christ.

Tensions in Moses' Final Days

Moses receives his final instructions.



Moses' final instructions

He is instructed to look.

Deuteronomy 32:48-52

The LORD spoke to Moses that very same day, saying,
“Go up to this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo,
which is in the land of Moab opposite Jericho,
and look at the land of Canaan,
which I am giving to the sons of Israel for a possession.

Deuteronomy 32:48-52

The LORD spoke to Moses that very same day, saying,

“Go up to this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo,

which is in the land of Moab opposite Jericho,

and look at the land of Canaan,

which I am giving to the sons of Israel for a possession.

Moses' final instructions

He is instructed to look.

He is instructed to die.

Deuteronomy 32:48-52

Go up to this mountain... and look at the land of

Canaan,

which I am giving to the sons of Israel for a possession.

Then die on the mountain where you ascend,
and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother
died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people...

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Deuteronomy 32:48-52

Go up to this mountain... and look at the land of Canaan,
which I am giving to the sons of Israel for a possession.

Then die on the mountain where you ascend,
and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother
died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people...

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Why?

Deuteronomy 32:48-52

Go up to this mountain... and look at the land of Canaan,
which I am giving to the sons of Israel for a possession.

Then die on the mountain where you ascend,
and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother
died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people...

...because you broke faith with Me in the midst
of the sons of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh,
in the wilderness of Zin, because you did not treat Me
as holy in the midst of the sons of Israel.
For you shall see the land at a distance,
but you shall not go there, into the land
which I am giving the sons of Israel.

What had happened?

Numbers 20:9-11

So Moses took the rod from before the LORD, just as He had commanded him; and Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them, “Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?” Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank.

What had happened?

Numbers 20:9-11

So Moses took the rod from before the LORD,
just as He had commanded him; and Moses and Aaron
gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them,

“Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you

out of this rock?” Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck
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Numbers 20:9-11

So Moses took the rod from before the LORD,
just as He had commanded him; and Moses and Aaron
gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them,

“Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you

out of this rock?” Then **Moses lifted up his hand and struck**

the rock twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly,
and the congregation and their beasts drank.

What had happened?

Numbers 20:9-11

So Moses took the rod from before the LORD, just as He had commanded him; and Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them, "Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?" Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank.

The command had been “speak to the rock”.

The Consequence?

Numbers 20:12

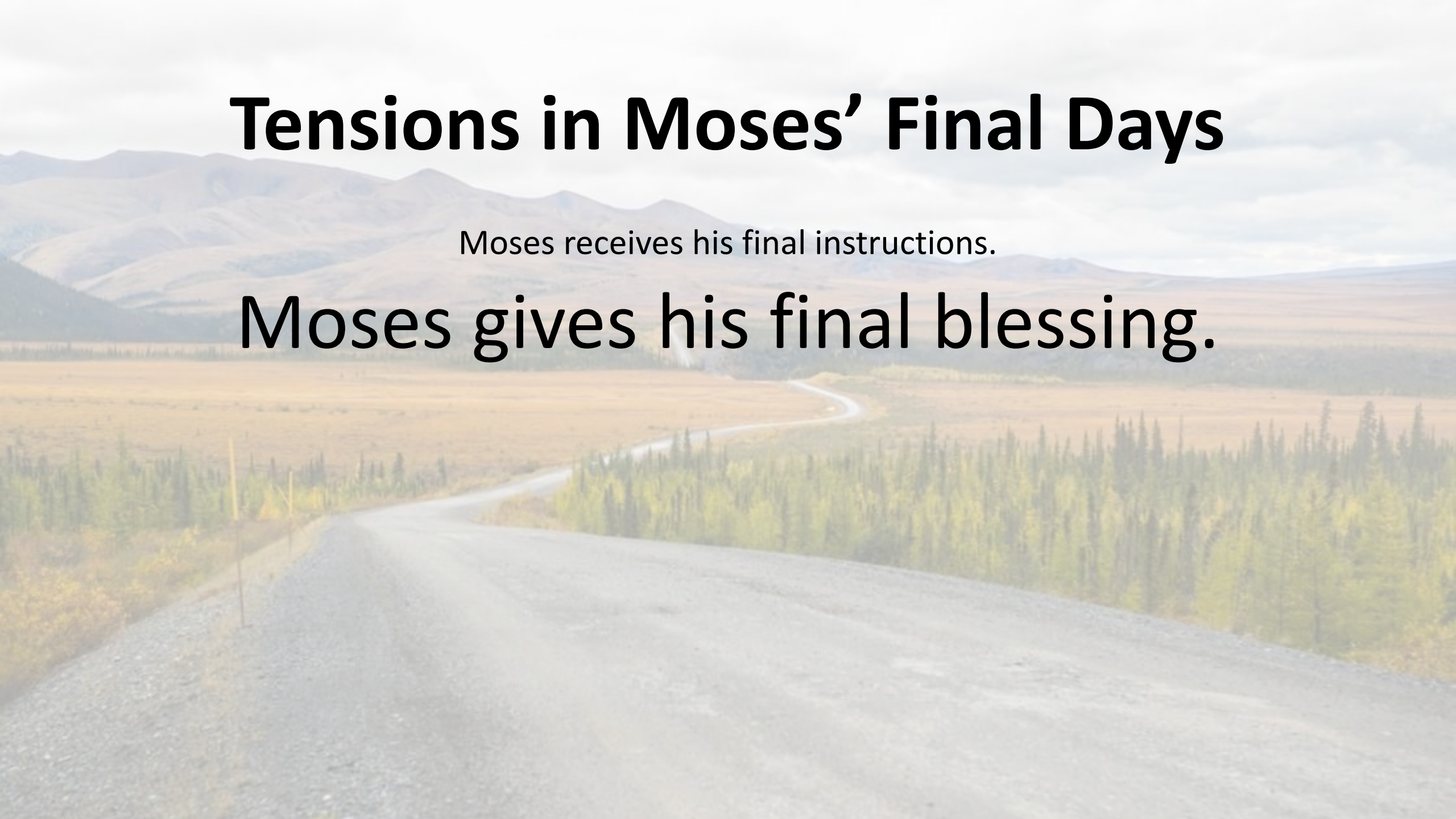
But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
“Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy
in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring
this assembly into the land which I have given them.”

The LORD's instructions to **look**, then **die**, highlight the tensions between the grace of future hope and the consequences of present failures.

Tensions in Moses' Final Days

Moses receives his final instructions.

Moses gives his final blessing.



Deuteronomy 33:1-2

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

**This is a fatherly blessing
much like Jacob's.**

Moses' final blessing

He frames it with God's presence.

The Introduction

Deuteronomy 33:2-5

He said, "The LORD came from Sinai,
And dawned on them from Seir;
He shone forth from Mount Paran,
And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones;
At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them.
Indeed, He loves the people;
All Your holy ones are in Your hand,
And they followed in Your steps;
Everyone receives of Your words.
Moses charged us with a law,
A possession for the assembly of Jacob.
And He was king in Jeshurun,
When the heads of the people were gathered,
The tribes of Israel together."

The Conclusion

Deuteronomy 33:26-27

“There is none like the God of Jeshurun,
Who rides the heavens to your help,
And through the skies in His majesty.
The eternal God is a dwelling place,
And underneath are the everlasting arms;
And He drove out the enemy from before you,
And said, ‘Destroy!’”

The Conclusion

Deuteronomy 33:28-29

“So Israel dwells in security,
The fountain of Jacob secluded,
In a land of grain and new wine;
His heavens also drop down dew.

Blessed are you, O Israel;
Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD,
Who is the shield of your help
And the sword of your majesty!
So your enemies will cringe before you,
And you will tread upon their high places.”

Moses' final words are a reminder that it is the LORD who goes with His people, even in the midst of their corruptions, and it is the LORD who will be their hope and security.

Moses' final blessing

He frames it with God's presence.

He applies it by tribal territory.

Details of the blessing and the order in which it is given highlight tensions between what ought to have been and what would be.

Examples in the Blessing

Deuteronomy 33:6-7

“May Reuben live and not die,
Nor his men be few.”

And this regarding Judah; so he said,
“Hear, O 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.”

The Order of Blessing

Reuben

Judah

Levi (no Simeon)

Benjamin

Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh)

Zebulun and Issachar

Gad

Dan

Naphtali

Asher



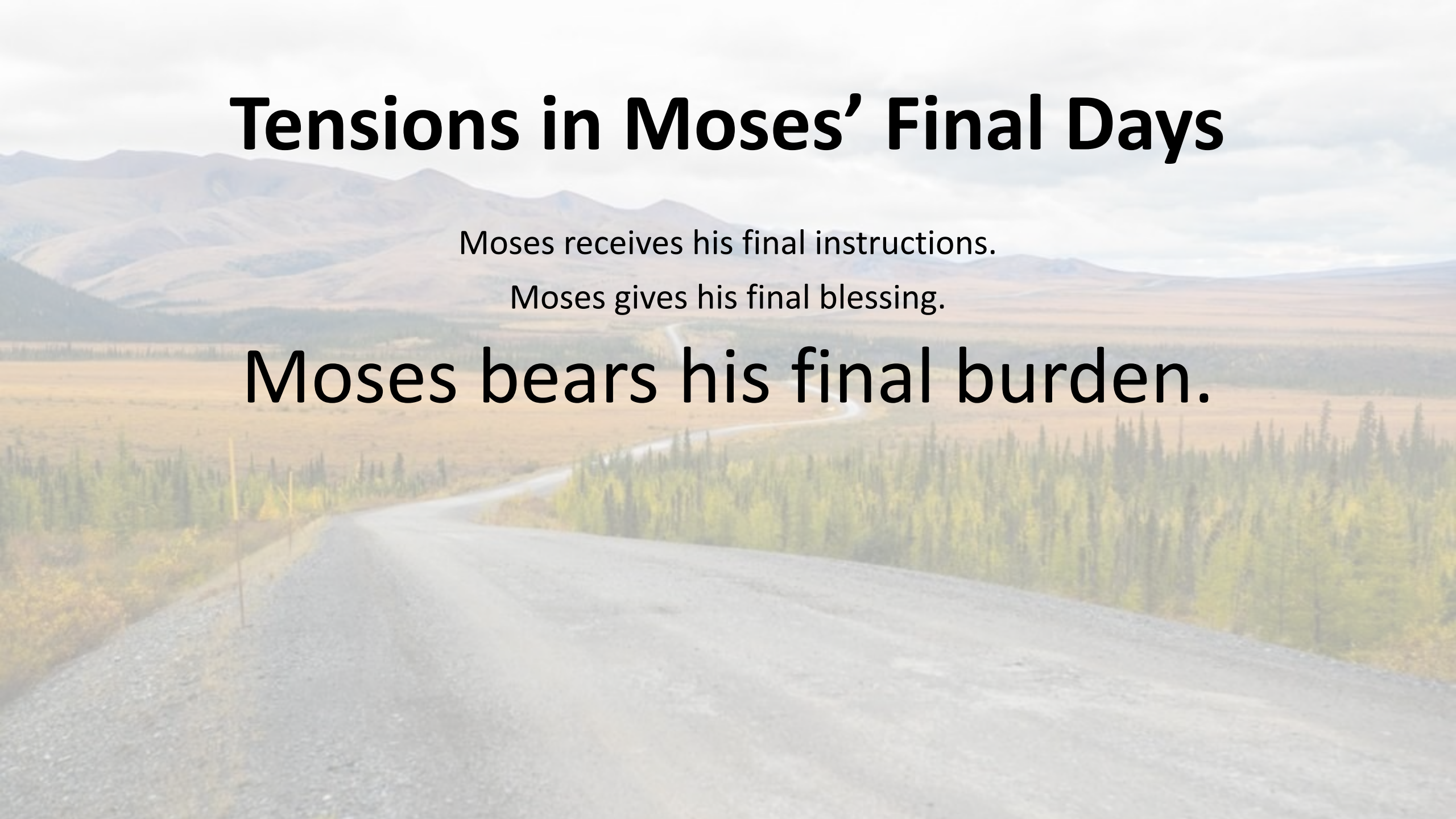
Moses' blessing itself is filled with tensions between the corruptions and consequences of sin and the grace and mercy of God.

Tensions in Moses' Final Days

Moses receives his final instructions.

Moses gives his final blessing.

Moses bears his final burden.



Moses' final burden

He is shown what he cannot possess.

Deuteronomy 34:1-4

Now Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho.

And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, and all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, and the Negev and the plain in the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

Then the LORD said to him,

“This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.”

God's kindness in showing him the future

hope... Deuteronomy 34:1-4

Now Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo,
to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho.

And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan,
and all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh,
and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, and the Negev
and the plain in the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

Then the LORD said to him,

**“This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac,
and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’;**

I have let you see it with your eyes,
but you shall not go over there.”

...is in tension with the consequence of disobedience.

Deuteronomy 34:1-4

Now Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo,
to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho.

And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan,
and all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh,
and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, and the Negev
and the plain in the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

Then the LORD said to him,

“This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac,
and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’;

**I have let you see it with your eyes,
but you shall not go over there.”**

We are reminded that though our actions can result in irreversible, temporal consequences; this does not mean the removal of God's eternal grace.

Moses' final burden

He is shown what he cannot possess.

He dies in health.

Deuteronomy 34:5 and 7

So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

Although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated.

*God's faithfulness in preserving
Moses' health is laid alongside
God's judgment of Moses' sin.*

Moses' final burden

He is shown what he cannot possess.

He dies in health.

He is buried in obscurity.

Deuteronomy 34:6

And He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab,
opposite Beth-peor; but **no man knows
his burial place to this day.**

Why?

Moses' burial site was likely hidden to prevent the people from taking his bones into the promised land.

**God's judgments are final
and absolute!**

Tensions in Moses' Final Days

Moses receives his final instructions.

Moses gives his final blessing.

Moses bears his final burden.

Moses leaves his final legacy.

Moses' final legacy

He commissions Joshua.

Deuteronomy 34:9

Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, **for Moses had laid his hands on him;**
and the sons of Israel listened to him
and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

The Earlier Commissioning:

Deuteronomy 31:7

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 31:23

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.”

Joshua was commissioned with the spirit of wisdom as a gracious gift to the people, but the need for his commissioning was due to the corruptions of sin.

Moses' final legacy

He commissions Joshua.

He prefigures Christ.

Deuteronomy 34:10-12

Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses,
whom the LORD knew face to face,
for all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him
to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh,
all his servants, and all his land,
and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror
which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Deuteronomy 18:15

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from
among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.

Deuteronomy 34:10-12

Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses,

whom the LORD knew face to face,

for all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him
to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh,
all his servants, and all his land,
and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror
which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.



John 2:11

In the beginning was the Word,
and **the Word was with God...**

Deuteronomy 34:10-12

Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses,

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Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses,
whom the LORD knew face to face,

for **all the signs and wonders which
the LORD sent him
to perform**

in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh,
all his servants, and all his land,
and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror
which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

John 2:11

This beginning of **His signs** Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

John 20:30

Therefore many **other signs** Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book.

Acts 2:22

“Men of Israel, listen to these words:

Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with **miracles and wonders and signs** which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know...”

Peter's Application

Acts 3:20-23

...that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

Moses said, *The LORD God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to him you shall give heed to everything He says to you.*

And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.

Jesus is the true and better Prophet
who resolved the tensions of sin and
grace by bringing them together
in Himself on the cross.

Conclusions:

Until Christ returns and renews all things, the corruptions of sin will remain alongside God's grace.

The ongoing corruptions of sin should help us see our need for the grace of Jesus Christ.

The ongoing corruptions of sin should help us understand what it means to live in a state of grace.