

Time to Move on  
(Deuteronomy 34:5-9)

Moses, the chosen one to lead Israel to the Promised Land, is now dead. After almost forty years, he is taken out and denied the privilege to enter the land, because he sinned against the Lord when he struck the rock instead of speaking to it to yield water for the people and their livestock, as the LORD commanded him, "Listen, you rebels,! He said, Must we bring water out of this rock for you?" Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff, so that a great amount of water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust Me to show My holiness in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this assembly into the land I have given them." These are the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites quarreled with the Lord, and He showed His holiness to them (Numbers 20:9-12). So it was that at the end of their journey, when they were approaching the forty years wonder in the desert, that Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which faces Jericho, and the LORD showed him all the land... The LORD said, I will give it to your descendants; I let you see with your own eyes, but you will not cross into it (Deut. 34:1-4).

Moses was 120 years old when he died; his eyes were not weak, and his vitality had not left him (vs.7). Moses' life was divided in three space of time of forty years: forty years in the palace as prince of Egypt; forty years in the desert of Median as a shepherd, where YAHWEH spoke to him through a burning bush and called him to deliver His people from Egypt: the LORD said to him, I have observed the misery of My people in Egypt, and have heard them crying out because of their oppressors, and I know about their sufferings; I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and to bring them from that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey. I am sending you to Pharaoh so that you may lead My people, the Israelites, out of Egypt (Exodus 3). And Moses spent forty years wandering through another desert, leading Israel to the Promised Land. According to the Word of YAHWEH, no prophet has arisen again in Israel like him, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unparalleled for all the signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do against the land of Egypt – to Pharaoh, to all his officials, and to all his land, and for all the mighty acts of power and terrifying deeds that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel (Deut. 34:10-12). But Moses' time was over; it was time for Israel to move on; they wept over his death, as it was the custom, for thirty days and under the leadership of Joshua, Moses' assistant, they moved on to the destination of the Promised Land. The journey was not finished with their leader's death; much needed to be done ahead for the fulfillment of YAHWEH'S promise to them. Joshua led the Israelites to the Promised Land successfully under the direction of the LORD.

The LORD YAHSHUA, before His death, had a long talk with His disciples, preparing and instructing them to be His witnesses of all they had learned. He also comforted and promised to come back for them. His death was not going to be the end of things, but the beginning of a new life. His death would bring the resurrection to eternal life with Him for all who would believe and accept Him. His death, although a temporary loss for His disciples, was the open door for the resurrection. Mary Magdalene could not cope with the reality of His death; her life

had stopped for a while, thinking that that was the end; she continued to look for Him among the dead ones, with eyes veiled with tears, she could not see the resurrected LORD until He called her by her name. The death of a loved one does not stop the clock of life; as important as it might be to mourn for a time it will come the time to move on with life, looking up to YAHSHUA, the source of our hope. Paul said to the Thessalonians, "We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. Since we believe that YAHSHUA died and rose again, in the same way YAHWEH will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in YAHSHUA (I Thess. 4:13-14).

When tragedy strikes us that is not for us to live as if there were no future in the horizon of life; that is only a yield sign in life before proceeding to new things through a new door YAHWEH has opened before us. The winters of life lasts only for a time; soon life of the spring season starts and nature is colorful again, with the birds rejoicing with its beautiful songs. If we stay in the winter mode, then we will never enjoy the beauty of the rest of the seasons. Song of Songs well expresses the LORD'S desires for His Bride: Arise, My love, come away, My beautiful one, for now the winter is past; the rain has ended and gone away; the blossoms appear in the countryside; the time of singing has come. Arise, My love, come away, My beautiful one (Song of Songs 2:11-13). Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD shines over you (Isaiah 60:1); your mourning time is over; the beauty of the Lord shines in His love for you; an open door is ready for you to enter; arise, my friend, look ahead of you now and trust in your Lord, Who will direct your life in the way of peace and joy amidst your sorrow. New morning is before you with joy; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning (Psalm 30: 5). The Lord will command His loving-kindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with (you). It is time to move on!

**THINK ABOUT IT!**