

Moses is nearing the end of his exhortations and warnings to the people of Israel. In the next two chapters, he will give them a song to memorize. He calls “heaven and earth” to witness against them if they violate what they are taught in that song. The song is only one of many witnesses. The books of the law will witness against them. (verse 26). Even their own words will witness against them (Joshua 24:22). No wonder the law is called a “ministry of condemnation” in 2 Corinthians 3:9

But Christ defies heaven and earth to witness against those who belong to Him. *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus* (Romans 8:1). On the contrary, He provides a witness **for** us as believers, testifying on our behalf. That witness is the Holy Spirit.

Questions:

1. What does Moses mean when he says he can no longer go out and come in? (Read 34:7 before answering!)
2. Verses 6, 7, and 23 repeat the phrase, “Be strong and courageous.” Where else do we have that command, whether OT or NT? What is the source of our courage?
3. What might be the reason for the seven year cycle of reading the law, as specified in verse 10?

And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord:

*I will put my laws on their hearts,
and write them on their minds,”*

then He adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more” (Hebrews 10:15-17).

Also: The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:16).

Those in Moses’ audience were warned that they risked disaster if they ignored the witness against them. They did, and the outcome was indeed terrible. Here’s something to consider: What do we lose if we doubt or ignore the blessed testimony of the Spirit that witnesses to and for us?

4. What is the tent of meeting mentioned in verse 14?

5. Moses passes his mantle of leadership to Joshua in this chapter. What in Joshua's past might have qualified him for this role?

6. In verse 20, what is one reason the people will turn from the Lord?

7. Moses has often told the people that they will break their covenant with the Lord after He blesses them with the land. In verses 16-19, the Lord Himself confirms this pessimistic projection. Here is a difficult question: Why does He give them His great promises in the first place, knowing they will fail?