

Vayelech, Haazinu, V'Zot HaBerachah: Joshua, Song and Blessing of Moses

Joshua and Death of Moses

Moses tells the Israelites to be strong and courageous, as God and Joshua would soon lead them into the Promised Land (Wikipedia.org). Joshua is said to write the end of the Torah describing Moses dying and being buried by God personally.

Song of Moses

The poem opens with an exordium (verses 1-3) in which heaven and earth are summoned to hear what the poet is to utter. In verses 4-6 the theme is defined: it is the rectitude and faithfulness of YHVH toward His corrupt and faithless people. Verses 7-14 portray the providence, which conducted Israel in safety through the wilderness and gave it a rich and fertile land; verses 15-18 are devoted to Israel's unfaithfulness and lapse into idolatry. This lapse had compelled YHVH to threaten it (verses 19-27) with national disaster and almost with national extinction. Verses 28-43 describe how YHVH has determined to speak to the Israelites through the extremity of their need, to lead them to a better mind, and to grant them victory over their foes (Wikipedia.org)

Blessing of Moses

Themes: connection to Jacob's blessing, omits the central cult of worship (the whole goal of Deuteronomy), anachronistic language, shows signs of being "mangled" (see Robert Alter's *The Five Books of Moses*).