

LIVING WELL WITH UNMET EXPECTATIONS

Deuteronomy 34:5-7

By Rod MacIlvaine

Introduction: Whenever we face a new year, we pause, take stock, and assess our future. How are we doing relative to our plans? Are we on track to meet our goals, fulfill our dreams, meet our expectations? Many of us are pondering these matters as we face 2023 with all its challenges. Managing expectations is something that most of us are naturally inclined to do, but as followers of Jesus, assessing hopes and dreams is a matter of stewardship. God often *creates* these expectations. And he works *through* them: both those that are fully satisfied and those that are not. Managing expectations is something Moses was forced to do at the end of his life, and the way God dealt with Moses' expectations is both deeply loving and delightfully surprising. As we face this new year, I want to show how we might think about our expectations in a fresh way. To do this, we'll look at the life of Moses and discover something amazing that took place at the moment of his passing. How God dealt with Moses on his last day on earth gives us a clue about how God loves us even in our unfulfilled expectations. To study this, I want to show you four factors that increase our expectations and then show you God's surprise way of satisfying them.

1. **Expectation accelerator #1** – An unusual birth
Exodus 2:1-6; Acts 7:20

2. **Expectation accelerator #2** – A strong education
Acts 7:22-23

3. **Expectation accelerator #3** – Pain in your past
Numbers 13-14; 20:9-11

4. **Expectation accelerator #4** – Hoping against hope
Deut. 3:23-26; 2 Cor. 12:7-10

5. **Expectation crusher** – We recognize that time is running out
Deuteronomy 31:14; 32:48-52

6. **Expectations fulfilled** – But God, in his tender love, fulfills Moses' expectations in a radically different way
Deuteronomy 34:6

7. **Idea**

8. **Takeaways**