

## Deuteronomy Chapter 2

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- Physically the children of Israel are prepared and poised to enter the promise land, but this is for their spiritual preparation.
- **The theme of this book** is obedience.

**Psalm 119:1-5** “<sup>1</sup>Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart. <sup>3</sup>They also do no iniquity: they walk in His ways. <sup>4</sup>Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. <sup>5</sup>O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!”

- So Moses is running through their history, basically instructing them not to make the same mistakes as their parents who were labeled “an evil generation” by God because of their dis-belief and rebellion.
- They were told about how their parents were turned away from the promise land and led back into the wilderness for 38 years until that generation had died off and now they are moving forward beginning to move towards the promise land and now some of the challenges they’ve faced with the Lord.

V: 1-4 From out in the wilderness of Arabia they are to head North towards Edom.

- This passage validates the location of Mt. Sinai as being Jabal Al Lawz.
- God will put fear into the hearts of the descendants of Esau / Edomites that they will fear the children of Israel.
- Because they are your brethren, be careful how you treat them.

V: 5 Do not interfere with them, I’m not giving you their land – not an inch.

- Because God’s already given it to the descendants of Esau.
- It is important to note that God keeps His promises – to whomever they are made. When God makes a promise, He keeps it!

**Psalm 138:2** “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

V: 6-7 Coming of age: having to buy their own food. This is a new thing, up to this point God has miraculously provided manna from heaven to supply their needs.

- God has taken care of them, provided for all their needs these last 40 years.
- This is a testimony to God's faithfulness and provision, both then and now.

**James 1:17** "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

- Moving from past to present:

**Philippians 4:19** "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

V: 8-9 In similar fashion they passed by the land of Moab, again because God had given it to the Moabites, the descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew.

V: 10-12 Dealing with the giants by different names; all dead.

V: 13-15 2 years coming out of Egypt, camping out near Sinai, receiving the law – then 38 years wandering in the wilderness until the "evil generation" all died off.

- All because of their disobedience and lack of faith:

**Hebrews 10:38-39** <sup>38</sup>Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. <sup>39</sup>But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

**Luke 9:62** "No man having put his hand to the plow, looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

- This is an exhortation not to make the same mistakes as their parents.

V: 16-23 We often focus on the land allotted to Israel, the vastness of it compared to what they actually possess. They were also limited to specific portions as God allotted to them.

- The children of Israel then passed through to Moab – passing through the land of the giants on the way.
- It is noted that the descendants of Lot were given the land, but that the Lord had cleared the giants out of the way for them.
- The implied message here is that God will do the same for them as well.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

- Temptation: (G-3986). pi-ras-mos'; a putting to proof, proving, adversity, trial, temptation.
- It's just a test, a test of the emergency Christian system:
- If God takes us to the land of the giants, it's just so He can test our faith. it's only to show us how strong He is!

**James 1:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. <sup>4</sup>But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect, and entire, wanting nothing.”

V: 24-25 Again this is a review of their history: they were told to rise up and get moving.

\*Map            \*River Arnon            \*Heshbon

- They were told to fight / contend with Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon so that they could begin to possess the land – but also that Sihon would be used as an example to Israel's other enemies, a preview of what they could expect.

V: 26-30 At God's direction Moses sent messengers to Sihon seeking peaceful passage through his land, offering to pay for provision and promising not to deviate from the pathway.

**Romans 12:18** “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”

- But Sihon refused. God hardened Sihon's spirit: confirmed it – froze it in place – and used him for His purposes.

V: 31-37 God tells them to begin to possess the land. The land where Reuben, Gad, and the ½ tribe of Manasseh would eventually settle.

- Notice that taking hold of God's promises involved a battle, they had to fight for it.
- Notice as well that it was complete and utter victory:

V: 36b “... *there was not a city / stronghold too strong for us: the Lord our God delivered all unto us.*”

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## *Deuteronomy Chapter 3*

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V: 1 (Map) They went to Bashan, and Og, king of Bashan came out to battle at Edrei.

V: 2-7 Fear them not! God would deliver Og and all his cities, their people, and land into their hands.

- 60 cities, fortified with walls – inhabited with giants.
- All the things that the previous generation had feared all rolled into one – and they were utterly destroyed except for the cattle and the spoil.

V: 8-17 Map

- Complete conquest from the River Arnon to Mt. Hermon.
- All that land was given to Reuben, Gad, and the ½ tribe of Manasseh.
- Note: Og was the last of the giants: his bed was 13.5' & 6'

V: 18-20 Reviewing the agreement between God, the nation of Israel, and the tribes that would settle on the East side of the River Jordan.

- These tribes were committed to helping the remaining tribes in the conquering of the land and receiving their respective inheritances.

V: 21-22 You've seen with your own eyes what God can do.

- Do not fear those that you will fight against.
- Know that God will fight for you.

**Matthew 10:28** “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

- Once we fear God, we need not fear anything else.

V: 23-29 Moses is about to petition God; but before he makes his actual request he praises and worships God for who He is and the great things He has done.

- He approaches God with thanksgiving and praise; he's not trying to butter God up, he is simply acknowledging who God is.

**Philippians 4:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>Be careful / anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

- Moses seemingly see's things on a roll and asks God to re-consider his decision about Moses not getting to go into the promise land.
- **Exodus 17** records the 1<sup>st</sup> time the children of Israel came to Mt. Sinai, and needed water.
- **Numbers 20** records the 2<sup>nd</sup> time; when Moses misrepresented God to the children of Israel.
- Moses wasn't allowed to enter into the promise land because in part God wanted to impress upon the children of Israel the need for obedience, and for the need to properly represent God.
- Sometimes God says “yes” to our prayers, sometimes He says “no”.
- In this case God says “no” and says don't bring it up again.
- God up to the top of Mt. Pisgah and look around, check out the promise land.
- Take a good hard look at the bigger picture.
- We can get caught up in the details of life, the little things, not that the details aren't important, but we really need to keep the bigger picture in view.
- Canaan was the land of promise, the promise land, not heaven. For us the promise land is here and now, the victorious Christian life in an abiding relationship with Jesus.
- Heaven our final destination.