

In Deuteronomy 1 the people of Israel were finally at the outskirts of the Promised Land, Canaan. God had given the Israelites the mission to take this land and He promised that He would be with them and fight for them. However, the people of Israel acted in unbelief and they did not take the land as they were told. Now we will see how this new generation will fare.

Awaiting a New Generation – Read Deuteronomy 2:1-23

Reminder: In v.1, why is Israel traveling around Mount Seir, and who is commanding them? (cf. Deut 1:34-2:1)

A. *Why is Israel traveling around Mount Seir (cf. Deut 1:34-2:1)*

- *So you remained at Kadesh many days, the days that you remained there. “Then we turned and journeyed into the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea, as the Lord told me. And for many days we traveled around Mount Seir. ~Deu 1:46-2:1)*

- They are wandering because the people disobeyed God and did not take the land as they were required to do.

- Their punishment was that they would wander the desert until that generation passed away

B. *and who is commanding them?*

- Moses is speaking but it is God who is commanding them

What is the relationship between the Israelites to the Edomites (sons of Esau) and Moabites (sons of Lot), and Ammonites (sons of Lot)? (Genesis 25:19-26, Genesis 12:5, Genesis 19:37-38) What did God command them to do in Deu 2:2-12 when passing through their territories?

A. *What is the relationship between the Israelites to the Edomites (sons of Esau) and Moabites (sons of Lot), and Ammonites (sons of Lot)? (Genesis 25:19-26, Genesis 12:5, Genesis 19:37-38)*

- Esau was the brother of Jacob who is a patriarch of Israel (Genesis 25:19-26). Moab and Ammonites are sons of Lot who is the nephew of Abraham (Genesis 12:5, 19:37-38)

- More details with the Edomites can be found in Numbers 20:14-21

- More details with the Moabites can be found in Numbers 22-24

B. *What did God command them to do in Deu 2:2-12 when passing through their territories?*

The same for all:

Do not contend with them

God will not give you their land

Seir is the possession of Esau, Ar to the people of Lot, the land of the people of Ammon was given to the sons of Lot for a possession

One difference: Sons of Esau:

- Silver for food and water

Note about 40 years vs. 38 years: 40 years in wilderness and 38 years from Kadesh Barnea to brook Zered

Note about Rephaim: The first reference to the Rephaim is Genesis 14:5, when the Rephaim, Zuzim and Emim people were defeated in a battle with Kedorlaomer and his allies. When the Israelites first approached the Promised Land after the Exodus from Egypt, they were afraid to enter the land because it was filled with “giants” (the word used in Numbers 13:33 is Nephilim), the sons of Anak. Giants were widely scattered through Canaan, but were known by different local names, including Rephaim, Zuzim, Emim, and Anakim. Deuteronomy 2:20–21 says the Rephaim were strong and tall, like the Anakites. Og, king of Bashan, was described as the last of the Rephaim in his land (Deuteronomy 3:11), and his bed was thirteen feet long and six feet wide. (Gotquestions)

How long did Israel spend between Kadesh-Barnea to the brook of Zered, why did this journey take so long? (cf. Deu 1:46) What were they waiting for? (cf. Deu 1:35, 2:14-15)

A. How long did Israel spend between Kadesh-Barnea to the brook of Zered, why did this journey take so long? (cf. Deu 1:46)

*¹⁴ And the time from our leaving Kadesh-barnea until we crossed the brook Zered was thirty-eight years, ~ Deu 2:14
The journey would not take 38 years from Kadesh Barnea to brook of Zered,*

B. What were they waiting for? (cf. Deu 1:35, 2:14-15)

God was waiting for the unbelieving generation to pass away. In fact, God's hand was specifically against them as it says in v.15, "For indeed the hand of the Lord was against them, to destroy them from the camp, until they had perished."

How is God shown to be faithful to his promises and judgements?

Promise – new generation would be the ones to take over the mission to conquer the lands of Canaan

Judgement – This would happen after the unbelieving generation died out

Defeat of King Sihon and King Og– Read Deuteronomy 2:24-:3:11

In v.24-25, what does God command them to do, and how will God aid them in their mission? (cf. Ex 15:14-16, Josh 2:8-11)

A. In v.24-25, what does God command them to do

- Begin to cross over into Arnon Valley and engage the Amorite King, Sihon
- Take possession of it and engage him in battle

B. and how will God aid them in their mission? (cf. Ex 15:14-16, Josh 2:8-11)

- God will put the dread of him and fear of you upon the peoples
- Who have heard report of you and they will tremble and are weak because of you see verses on heard report
- Other nations may have likely heard already of God's work in Israel and already tremble (*Ex 15:14-16, Num 23:22, 24:8*)

In v. 2:24-37, Moses sends emissaries of peace to King Sihon requesting that Israel be allowed to pass through. How does King Sihon respond, and how is God shown to be in control of this entire situation?

A. In v. 2:24-37, Moses sends emissaries of peace to King Sihon requesting that Israel be allowed to pass through. How does King Sihon respond?

1. God tells Moses what will happen with King Sihon (v.24-25)

24 'Rise up, set out on your journey and go over the Valley of the Arnon. Behold, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to take possession, and contend with him in battle. 25 This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you on the peoples who are under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you.' ~Deu 2:24-25

2. Moses sends emissaries (given how much of this book of following God's commands, Moses likely consulted the Lord beforehand)

3. King Sihon responds negatively

' 30 But Sihon the king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him, for the Lord your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, that he might give him into your hand, as he is this day.~Deu 2:30

B. how is God shown to be in control of this entire situation?

- God, being the Lord of history, prophecies what God will do for Israel (v.24-25)
- God makes his heart stubborn and had made his heart obstinate to deliver him To Israel (v.30-36)

In 2:31-3:11, Israel battles it out with King Sihon and King Og. Summarize the battles. Why is Israel victorious from the author's standpoint?

A. Fight with King Sihon and King Og

- They came out to battle
- Lord delivered them into Israel's hand, and Israel takes possession of those lands
- Captured cities, destroyed men women and children, did not leave anything remaining
- Took cattle for ourselves as spoils and other treasures

B. Author's standpoint as reason for victories

- God was on our side, no city was too high for us and he delivered everything to us
- Contrast with why old generation failed (Deu 1:28)
 - Taller and greater than us – God is greater than them as he delivers them to us
 - Great cities – God allowed us to capture and plunder those cities
 - Higher walls – No walls were too high for us
 - Sons of Anakim – None too great for us

Apologetic: Was it wrong for God to command Israel to destroy all the people?

- We must understand that God is sovereign over all, God can do anything he wants with anyone and be right in doing so. (cf. Psalm 135:1-12) But many will find this unsatisfactory.
- The people of Canaan were wicked, and when God kills all of them it represents God's judgement of their sin. (cf. Deu 18:9-12)
- Canaan faced a fate that ultimately all sinners will face which is the judgement of God
- They had at least 40 years of advance warning (Rahab's confession again Josh 2:8-11). Conquest caught few by surprise. (Daniel Block)

Many in our secular society think that if there is a God then he is uninvolved in human affairs. How is the Bible's view of God's interaction in history fundamentally different than the secular view? How does this give us confidence in our mission?

(Have people get into groups of 4-5 to discuss this)

Assignment of the Lands – Read Deuteronomy 3:12-22

In 3:12-17, the kingdom of King Sihon is given to Reuben and Gad and the Kingdom of King Og is given over to the half tribe of Manasseh

Notes: More details in Num 32 on about the division of this land. The half tribe of Manasseh are the ones who conquer the land of Og and Moses allots them this land. Machir, throughout the Bible, will be synonymous with Manasseh as a whole. As can be seen in Numbers 32:39

In 3:18-20, Moses gives a speech to the people. What is Moses trying to convey to the Reubenites, Gadites, and Manassites? In 3:20, when could people return to the land they had taken?

a. *What is Moses trying to convey to the Reubenites, Gadites, and Manassites?*

- That God has given them these lands, but that does not mean that their conquest is over. They should go with their brothers and capture the rest of the land

B. *In 3:20, when could people return to the land they had taken?*

- They could return when all the people were at rest and have taken all the Promised Land

In 3:21-22, Moses speaks to Joshua reminding him all that God has done to these kings, and how God will do that to the rest of the kings of Canaan. How does v.22 connect what we read in Deuteronomy 1?

- These are things that God had encouraged the old generation of Israel. Firstly, to not fear or be dismayed (1:21), and the Lord “goes before you, and fights for you (1:30).

Moses’ Request – Read Deuteronomy 3:23-29

Summarize Moses’ request and God’s response in 3:23-27

- He was persistent in asking the Lord to see the Land
- God did not listen to Moses (meaning he said no)
- God became furious
 - Two reasons are put forward of why God was furious with Moses. First, Moses kept asking God even though he was firm on Moses not seeing the land. However, there have been times where God seems to have settled his mind on something and Moses was able to petition God to request a different outcome (Ex 32:9-14)
 - The second, (and this is my preferred reason) is because God may have been angry because Moses was too focused on the Promised Land than on the Lord of Promise. Moses may have swept with a strong passion to enter the Land, where his vision should be completely on God.
- God shows grace to Moses, by allowing him to see the Promised Land from Pisgah

From 3:28-29, why is Joshua significant, and what is Moses’ responsibility to him?

A. Joshua significant?

- Joshua is significant because he would be the new leader of Israel after Moses

B. Moses’ responsibility?

- To strengthen him and assure him

- Really reminding Israel to rely on God as he had done in this new generation that took the Land

Our God is sovereign! He controls the boundaries of nations, he controls the hearts of people, and he is the ultimate cause of victory. In these chapters we can see God is at work in the lives of his people, and it is because of him that they succeed in their mission. As Christians today with a mission of our own to “Go and make disciples of all nations” our hearts should be encouraged as we read these chapters, because we are reminded that no mission is impossible because our God reigns, and we should not be afraid because the Lord our God is the one working through and for us.