

**CALVARY PANDAN BIBLE-  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

[Adapted from Bethel Bible- Presbyterian  
Church, 10 Downing St. Oakleigh, Vic., 3166]

**DHW BIBLE CLASS**

**LESSON 2**

**THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY**

**CHAPTERS 2 & 3**

**INTRODUCTION**

Chapter 2 features the next phase of Israel's journey and summarized the events that took place in Numbers 20 & 21. The account in Deuteronomy differs from Numbers in several ways – it does not focus on the details of the events but on God's Sovereignty. It was God who took the initiative. It was God who was working in and through His people. This was balanced by Israel's submission and obedience to the LORD. And when Israel obeyed, they overcame all obstacles. Moses stressed God's control of Israel's encounters with the five nations, namely, Edom, Moab, Ammon, Sihon and Og.

**OUTLINE**

**A. The LORD Commanded Israel Not To Contend With the Edomites (2:1-8)**

1. The LORD commanded Israel to move north by-passing the land of the Edomites (2:1-3).
2. The Edomites would be afraid of Israel (2:4).
3. Israel was not to cause any strife with the Edomites for

the LORD had given the land to them. Israel might buy meat and water from them with money (2:5-6).

4. Moses reminded that the LORD had blessed Israel all these forty years and Israel had lacked nothing (2:7).
5. Having passed through the land of Edom, Israel came to the land of the Moabites (2:8).

**B. The LORD Commanded Israel Not To Contend With The Children of Lot (2:9-23)**

1. Israel was not to attack the Moabites (2:9-18).
  - a) Israel was forbidden to attack Moab because they were the descendants of Lot and the LORD had given the land to them (2:9).
  - b) The Edomites had defeated the giant Anakims for the LORD gave unto them (2:10-12).
  - c) Israel was ready to enter the Promised Land because the LORD had destroyed the "men of war" who rebelled against Him at Kadesh-barnea (2:13- 18).
2. Israel was not to contend with the Ammonites (2:19-23).
  - a) Israel was not to contend with the Ammonites because they were the children of Lot and the land they dwelt in was given to them (2:19).
  - b) The LORD has destroyed the giant Anakims (2:20- 23).

**C. Israel To Take The Land Of The Amorites (2:24-3:11).**

1. Israel and the King of Sihon (2:24-37).
  - a) Israel was to contend with King Sihon of Heshbon and to possess his land (2:24-25).
  - b) Moses sent words of peace but King Sihon would not let Israel pass (2:26-30).
  - c) The LORD delivered King Sihon to Israel (2:31-36).
  - d) Israel did not attack the land of the Ammonites because the LORD forbade it (2:37).
2. Israel and the King of Og (3:1-11).
  - a) Israel marched northward and was attacked by King Og of Bashan (3:1).
  - b) The LORD delivered King Og to Israel (3:2-11).

**D. The Land That Israel Possessed On the East of Jordan Was Allotted to Reuben, Gad And The Half Tribe of Manasseh (3:12-20).**

1. The southern part of the land east of Jordan was given to the Reubenites and Gadites (3:12, 16-17).
2. The rest of Gilead in the north was given to the half tribe of Manasseh (3:13-15).
3. The land was given to them on the condition that they sent armed men to augment the warriors of their brethren when they crossed to the west of Jordan (3:18-20).

**E. Moses Commissions Joshua (3:21-29).**

1. Moses pointed out to Joshua what the LORD had done in their midst (3:21).

2. Joshua was not to fear for the LORD would fight for him (3:22).
3. The LORD had chosen Joshua to lead the people into the Promised Land (3:23-28).
  - a) Moses pleaded with God to let him enter the Promised Land (3:23-25).
  - b) The LORD would not hear him and commanded him to stop asking (3:26).
  - c) However, the LORD permitted him to view the land from Mount Pisgah (3:27).
  - d) The LORD told him to charge and encourage Joshua to lead the people into the Promised Land (3:28).

**COMMENTARY  
EDOM**

The LORD said that it was time for Israel to turn northward and to pass through Edom where the children of Esau dwelt. God told them not to harass the Edomites, their brethren. God said that He had given the land to the children of Esau for a possession. However, the Israelites could buy provisions from them: *For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing (2:7).* God's blessings upon the children of Israel gave them the means to purchase the meat and the water, and therefore to rob and rapine these provisions would be inexcusable. Moreover, in their travels in the great wilderness, God had been kind and good to them. Israel obeyed the LORD and bypassed Edom.

## **MOAB & AMMON**

They came to Moab. The LORD commanded Israel not to distress the Moabites or fight with them on two grounds (similar to the case of Edom). Firstly, the Moabites were the descendants of Lot, the nephew of Abraham. Secondly, God had already given Moab the territory for a possession.

Before the Edomites and the Moabites dwelt there, there were giants known as Anakims. The Edomites had moved in and destroyed them.

The LORD commanded Israel to pass through Ar in Moab, and they came to the children of Ammon. Again, the LORD warned the Israelites not to distress the Ammonites as He had given the land to them. Moab and Ammon were the children of Lot.

The Edomites, Moabites and Ammonites were all related to Israel. Although they were not the chosen nation, yet the land on which they inhabited was given by the LORD – thus God also gave lands to other nations as He so willed. This reveals that God is sovereign and He sets the boundaries for each nation. God is not only the God of Israel, but also the God of all nations. Another point to note is that brothers should live in peace and harmony.

### **KING SIHON**

Moses explained that in the course of the 38 years, the men of war had wasted away in the wilderness as the LORD had said at Kadesh Barnea. It was time for the Israelites to take possession of the Promised Land.

Israel was commanded to march northwards, and passing the River Arnon they encountered the Amorite King Sihon. The LORD told Israel that He had given the land of Sihon to them but they must go to war for it.

When Moses wrote a peace letter to King Sihon, it was rejected. God hardened his heart. War broke out. The people of Sihon were utterly destroyed. Many find it difficult to understand that the God of Israel, the one living and true God, would destroy men, women and children. The truth of the matter is that all are sinners, without exception. Life is not a matter of right but of grace. We are indebted to God for the very breath in our being, Christians and non-Christians alike. We know that God is omniscient, whatever He does is right.

An important theological point is that King Sihon remained responsible for his antagonism against Israel and the ultimate destruction of his people despite God's hardening of his spirit. We cannot assume that God's hardening of his spirit allows him no freewill. God knows the heart of all men. The counsel of God does not negate man's free will and responsibility.

### **KING OG**

Moving further north, the Israelites encountered Og the King of Bashan and battled against him. The LORD assured Israel that He would deliver Og, his people and his land to them.

### **REUBEN, GAD, MANASSEH**

Moses recounted God's giving of the land to Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh. The LORD instructed them to pass over Jordan with the rest of their brethren and armed warriors to help possess the Promised Land.

Their wives, little ones and cattle would remain in Transjordan. They would return only after the LORD had given rest to their brethren. Moses made it clear that it was the LORD who gave them the land. Here, we see the solidarity of the nation in their common cause and obedience to the LORD.

### **JOSHUA**

Moses assured Joshua that just as the LORD had destroyed the two powerful kings, He would do likewise to all the kingdoms beyond Jordan. Moses encouraged him not to fear because the LORD God would fight for them.

### **MOSES' PRAYER**

Moses made an impassioned plea unto the LORD. The word "besought" is a very strong word that means to beg for mercy and grace in desperation. The theological perspective of God in Moses' prayer is significant. God had shown Moses His greatness and His power to bring to pass whatever He said and promised. There is nothing in heaven or on earth that He could not do according to His will. Moses pleaded with God to let him cross over to see "the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon." It is a land that flowed with milk and honey as attested by the twelve spies. The "goodly mountain" could be Mount Moriah where Abraham performed his glorious act of worship to God by offering his son Isaac (Genesis 22:2). Lebanon was famous for its large cedar trees, other trees and excellent plants.

Moses' reflection of God's rejection of his plea is touching. He recalled that the LORD was angry because of what he did before Israel.

The LORD would not hear him. The LORD told him that it was enough, and that he should not speak any more on the matter. If there was a man among the Israelites who was deserving of entering the Promised Land, it would be Moses. He had led the people and suffered much in their behalf. He was there when they needed him. He cared for them and interceded for them. His sole purpose was to lead them into the Promised Land. He was with them during the forty years bearing their burdens and troubles. In his heart, he yearned to see and be in the land that the LORD had promised them.

There is a precious lesson for us. Moses' plea to enter the land was not based on the fact that he deserved to go in. In his prayer, he leaned only on the sovereignty of God for none could question His decision. The incident he recalled was at the waters of Meribah (Numbers 20:8-11). The sin of Moses was a collective one. The people were equally to be blamed. Moses put it as "the LORD was angry with me for your sakes." Moses was bearing the punishment for his own generation. We see both judgement and grace. God consoled him by allowing him to see the good land from Mount Pisgah. We learn that God does not accede to all our petitions. "No" is also an answer from God especially when we ask amiss. In moments like this, instead of questioning God, we need to question the way we pray and the motive behind our prayers.

### **COMMISSION OF JOSHUA**

Moses was to charge Joshua, that is, to give him the commission and authority. Moses was instructed to encourage Joshua to exercise his

trust in the LORD. He had to build Joshua's confidence, and strengthen him by the assurances of God's presence and promises of success. The people were positioned at Beth-peor which was only a day's journey into the Promised Land. This closing account intimates the sequence in which the book is to end: the commissioning of Joshua, Moses' climb to Mount Pisgah to view the land, and the stationing of the people at Beth-peor. The boundaries of the land had been clearly drawn. God's sovereign control of the affairs of Israel and the other nations is emphasised. The recollection of God's guidance, protection, provision and victories in the past inspires courage and provides assurances.

AMEN

**DAILY READING & DISCUSSION  
QUESTIONS**

**Daily Readings**

**MONDAY:** Deuteronomy 2:1-8; Acts 17:26-28

**TUESDAY:** Deuteronomy 2:9-23;  
Daniel 4:34-35

**WEDNESDAY:** Deuteronomy 2:24-3:11;  
Romans 9:15-16

**THURSDAY:** Deuteronomy 3:12-22;  
Matthew 28:18-20

**FRIDAY:** Deuteronomy 3:23-29;  
John 16:23; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Why was Israel forbidden to harass Edom and take their land?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

2. When the children of Israel were banished to wander in the wilderness how did God treat them? What does this tell us about God?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

3. What do we learn about God's sovereignty over the nations in Chapter 2?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

4. How can we receive and enjoy God's gift (see vv. 24 & 31)?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

5. What details were given to show the strength of some of the enemies Israel had to overcome?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

6. How did the conquest of Sihon and Og disprove the "faithless" fears experienced thirty-eight years before at Kadesh-barnea?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

7. What message did Moses pass on to Joshua in verse 22? What principle is illustrated here?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

10. What have you learned about God through your own struggles and battles as a Christian?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

8. Moses' prayer was intense and his desire great. What insight do we gather about prayers and God's answers through this incident?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

9. According to Moses (as mentioned in this chapter), what had he learned about God?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....