

## Deuteronomy 2:1-15 Going the Long Way Around

Introduction: Moses is addressing the Israelites who are encamped east of the Jordan across from Jericho. In chapter 1 Moses started at Mount Horeb (Sinai) and retraced their journey to Kadesh-barnea. He reminded the Israelites that their forefathers had rebelled against God at Kadesh-barnea and had been turned back into the wilderness to wander. In our text today Moses skips over the wilderness wanderings and takes up the story at the second time they arrive at Kadesh-barnea. However, this time instead of instructing them to go north into Canaan, God sent them south to go around the lands of Edom and Moab so that they could enter Canaan from the east.

### I. The southward journey to the Red Sea V. 1-7

- A. Moses reminded the Israelites (these are the ones who would enter Canaan) that God said for them to go south to the Red Sea, V. 1.
  - 1. Moses did not mention that Aaron had died at Mount Hor on the first part of this journey south.
  - 2. Neither does he mention at this point that they would ask permission to go thru the land of Edom and would be refused.
  - 3. They would arrive at or near Eziongaber which was a port on the northern tip of the eastern tongue of the Red Sea. (Today that tongue is known as the Gulf of Aqaba.)
  - 4. They were many days making this journey.
- B. Upon their arrival at or near the Red Sea they were to turn east and cross through the southern tip of Edom so that they could turn northward and travel east of Edom and Moab and eventually east of the Dead Sea, V. 2-3.
- C. They had been instructed not to harm the people of Edom, but to offer to buy food and water from them as they would pass thru, V. 4-7.
  - 1. This would encourage the Edomites in this southern tip not to refuse the Israelites passage as their brethren further north had done. (They could gain a considerable wealth from the Israelites.)
  - 2. It would provide a considerable pleasure for the Israelites who had been on a diet of manna for a long time.

### II. The northward journey east of Edom and Moab V. 8

- A. After leaving Eziongaber at the northern tip of the Red Sea, they were to travel northward past the land of Edom and draw near to the land of Moab, V. 8.
  - 1. From there they would continue northward on the east of Moab, but were warned of God not to make trouble for the Moabites, V. 9.
  - 2. The Emims, who were giants, had lived in this land before the Moabites and the Lord had enabled the Moabites to drive them out and to possess the land. V.10-11 This was mentioned as a means of encouraging the Israelites, who would face giants in Canaan.)
  - 3. Likewise, the Edomites had driven giants out of the land which they now possessed, V. 12. (This, too, was mentioned to encourage the Israelites. God did not want this younger generation to rebel because of fear of the giants as their fathers had done.)
- B. At this point, they receive instruction from God to cross the brook Zered, V. 13. (The brook Zered lay between the land of Edom and Moab.)
- C. They had now spent thirty-eight years in the wilderness from the time they were turned back into the wilderness at Kadesh-barnea to wander, V. 14.
  - 1. This made a total of forty years since they had left Egypt.
  - 2. The death of the fathers in the wilderness was not chiefly from natural causes, V. 15.
  - 3. It had been from plagues that were sent upon them in additional acts of disobedience to

the Lord.

III. Special lessons for us

- A. The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.
  - 1. He gives the land to whom He pleases that they may dwell therein.
  - 2. Likewise, He distributes wealth to whom He pleases.
- B. God gives help to achieve difficult tasks.
  - 1. He gave help to the descendants of Lot so they could drive out giants and possess their land.
  - 2. Likewise, He gave help to the descendants of Esau so that they could drive giants out of their land and to possess their land.
- C. God gives great promises to men.
  - 1. He promised the Israelites that they would possess Canaan.
  - 2. He promises the lost that if they repent and trust Jesus they will be saved.
  - 3. He promises the saved a better land in which to dwell.
- D. God knows our tendency to be discouraged and to encourage us.
- E. God is able to help us with all of our trials and supply our every need.
- F. God is not unmindful of the desire of His people for pleasure.
  - 1. He gave the Israelites permission to purchase food from the Edomites, which they must have enjoyed very much.
  - 2. He, Himself, must have gotten much pleasure out of watching them enjoy that food.
  - 3. He gives us much pleasure even in this world of sin and woe.
  - 4. He has plans for giving us pleasures in the future which are beyond our imaginations.