

Deuteronomy 2:16-3:15 The Conquest of Gilead

Introduction: Moses is addressing the new generation of Israelites who would enter into Canaan's land. He has reminded them of the rebellion of the older generation at Kadesh-barnea. He reminded them that the forefathers had been turned back into the wilderness. After the wilderness wandering he reviewed with them the long, out of the way, journey they had taken to get to the eastern side of the Jordan River. At the close of the last text they were east of the Dead Sea and south of the Arnon River. They had gone around the border of Edom (Seir) and Moab. They were now ready to cross the Arnon River and enter the land of Gilead which lay east of the Jordan River.

I. Instructions for entering Gilead 2:16-23

- A. By this time all of the men 20 years old and upward who were involved in the rebellion at Kadesh-barnea had died. There were 3 exceptions: Caleb and Joshua and Moses; Moses would soon die and only Caleb and Joshua would enter Canaan. V.16-18
- B. A new generation now made up Israel's army. (Some had been children at Kadesh when the rebellion took place; others had been born in the wilderness.)
- C. The new army had been instructed to not bother the Ammonites, who were descendants of Lot. V.19
 - 1. After they would cross the Arnon river going north the Ammonites would be to the east of them.
 - 2. The Israelites were to go between the Ammonites and the Jordan River.
- D. Prior to the time that the Ammonites lived in this land, giants had lived there. V.20-21
 - 1. But the Lord had helped the Ammonites drive out the giants and take the land.
 - 2. This was now mentioned by Moses to point out that the size of a people is not what determines who will win; the help of God was what had given the Ammonites the victory.
- E. A similar situation had happened when God gave Esau the land of Seir (Edom); Giants had been in their land, but God had enabled Esau's descendants to drive out the giants. V.22
- F. Moses also mentioned the Caphtorims known to us as Philistines who had also driven out a mighty people to take the Gaza Strip. V.23 (If God had so blessed the Caphtorims, who were not God's chosen nation, then surely Israel, God's chosen nation, could depend on God to help them conquer Canaan.)
- G. You can see that Moses was doing all that he could to encourage this younger generation so that they would not rebel because of the giants in Canaan as their fathers had done at Kadesh-barnea.

II. The conquest of the Amorites V.24

- A. Moses now reminds the younger generation how that God had sent them northward across the Arnon and into battle against the Amorites. V.24
 - 1. The Amorites were not kin to the descendants of Esau and Lot.
 - 2. They were akin to the people who lived west of the river Jordan in Canaan's land.
 - 3. The people would remember that God had given them the victory over the Amorites and had given them their land.
- B. Beginning with their battles with the Amorites, God used their victories to put fear into the remaining people they would have to fight. V.25
 - 1. This included the Canaanite people west of Jordan.
 - 2. This should not only put fear into their enemies, but also give them confidence that God would give them the victory.

C. The procedure as they had crossed the river Arnon into Amorite territory is that they first sought to go through the land peaceably.

1. They offered to buy food and water and bother nothing else.
2. But when the Amorites attacked the Israelites, the Israelites counter-attacked and God gave them a tremendous victory. (He also gave them that land.) V. 26-37

III. The conquest of the rest of Gilead Deuteronomy 3:1-15

A. So it was with all the rest of Gilead. V.1-15

B. God gave them the victory and God gave them the land.

C. These battles were now post history and the people of Israel already possessed all of Gilead.

D. This land had already been given to the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh.

1. When they had to go all the way around Edom and Moab instead of cutting right through, it must have seemed an extra burden to the Israelites.

2. But now they could see that it was really to their advantage.

a. It gave them a sizable inheritance which was not in the original promised land.

b. Those whose inheritance would be in Canaan would be larger because 2 ½ tribes had their inheritance east of the Jordan River.

c. God always works things out for good to them that love Him.

IV. Worthy of special note

A. Moses was doing all that he could to encourage the people and to assure them that they would be able to conquer the Canaanite people in spite of the giants. (He did not want another rebellion like the one at Kadesh-barnea.)

B. God, Himself, was doing the same. (He was the one who told Moses what to say that would, or at least should have, encouraged them.)

C. Discouragement is one of the most powerful tools of Satan.

D. In our lives there are so many different things that happen which discourage us.

E. But we should be aware of the blessings of the Lord because the Lord has done so many things to encourage us.