

Deuteronomy 3:18-29 Encouragement From Moses

Introduction: In our previous text Moses reminded the children of Israel that God had given them the victory as they conquered the land of Gilead east of the Jordan River. They had conquered two Amorite kings and this land had already been given to the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh. In this text Moses gives and receives some special encouragement.

I. Special encouragement to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, the half tribe of Manasseh V. 18-20

- A. Moses reminded these tribes that they had been given land east of the Jordan on the condition that they were to go into Canaan with the rest of the tribes and help conquer Canaan, V. 18.
 - 1. The other tribes had helped them conquer Gilead.
 - 2. Now they were to help the other tribes conquer Canaan.
 - 3. This had been the understanding when they were given Gilead.
- B. Their wives, children and cattle were to remain in Gilead within the fortified cities where they would have protection while the warriors were gone, V. 19.
- C. The soldiers were to remain in Canaan until the land was conquered and the other tribes were given the land which they would possess, V. 20.

II. Special encouragement to Joshua V. 21-22

- A. Joshua, the commander and chief of Israel's army, was reminded of the victories which God had given over the two Amorite kings who had dwelt in Gilead east of the Jordan River, V.21. (So would God give him victory after crossing the Jordan into Canaan.)
- B. Joshua was not to be afraid of the Canaanite people even though they were giants and their cities were well fortified, V. 22.
 - 1. Joshua had not been afraid of them back at Kadesh-barnea and he was not to be afraid of them now.
 - 2. The reason he was not to fear them was because God would be with him and would give him the victory.

III. Special encouragement for Moses, himself V.23-26

- A. Moses asked God to encourage him by allowing him to cross Jordan and enter Canaan, V. 23-25.
 - 1. He had been with the people and had seen them conquer the two Amorite kings in Gilead, V. 23-24.
 - 2. That is, he had seen the beginning of the conquest, V. 24.
 - 3. He wanted to see the rest of the conquest, V. 25.
- B. But God was still angry with Moses because of his disobedience to God and God would not allow him to enter Canaan, V. 26.
 - 1. God told him to let "seeing the land from Mt. Pisgah (Nebo) be sufficient."
 - 2. He told Moses not to speak of this matter any more.
 - 3. Moses repeated that the reason God would not let him enter Canaan was because of the sins of the people.
 - a. He had said this earlier back in 1:37.
 - b. This had disturbed me because I thought Moses was blaming the people for something that he was to blame for himself.
 - c. It now appears to me that Moses was not trying to blame the people for his own sins, but that he was pointing out that God punishes sin, even the sin of the leaders. (If God had allowed Moses to avoid punishment for his sin, then the people would have

been encouraged to sin thinking that they, too, could get by. But by punishing the leader for his sin, then the people would be warned not to sin. And it was because the people were sinful and needed this warning God would not show mercy to Moses and let him enter Canaan.)

- C. Nevertheless, God gave Moses the special privilege of viewing the land even though it would be from a distance, V. 27.
 - 1. Moses was to go up to the top of Mt. Pisgah (Mt. Nebo) from which he would see the land.
 - 2. He would see westward toward the Mediterranean Sea.
 - 3. He would see northward toward the Golan heights. (Would see some of the mountain peaks.)
 - 4. He would see southward. Well south of Jerusalem into the Negev.
 - 5. He would see eastward into Gilead, the land they had already conquered. (This would reassure Moses as it would Joshua, that God would give the victory in Canaan.)
- D. Moses would not have the privilege of entering Canaan, but he would have a part in conquering it by the encouragement he would give Joshua to take it, V. 28.
- E. In the meantime, he would dwell east of the Jordan River, across from Jericho where he would continue to teach and encourage the younger generation of Israelites to take Canaan's land.

Conclusion: Sing "I Am Bound For The Promised Land".