

## Deuteronomy 4:41-49 An Interlude Between the First and Second Speeches of Moses

Introduction: Verse 40 ended the first speech of Moses. Verses 41 through 49 are not a part of the second speech, but were written in the book by Moses between the speeches. Very likely the first speech was given on a sabbath and the second speech was given the following Sunday. Our text was not given in either speech, but was intended for the readers of the book to introduce the second speech to them.

### I. A review of the first speech

- A. Moses reviewed their travels from Mt. Horeb (Mt. Sinai) to Kadesh-barnea and then from Kadesh-barnea to east of the Jordan River. (He omitted the wilderness wanderings.)
- B. Moses warned the children of Israel not to forsake the Lord once they were in Canaan and go into idolatry. (If they were to do so they would be carried into captivity.)
- C. He reminded them that God had promised great blessings if they would remain loyal to Him.
- D. He encouraged Joshua to be brave and the people to be faithful to the task of conquering Canaan.
- E. He reminded them that God had enabled them to conquer Gilead and would give them victory over Canaan.
- F. He minded them of the great blessings God had already given them and challenged the people to be loyal to God out of gratitude.

### II. The appointment of three cities of refuge in Gilead V. 41-43

- A. In the book of Numbers God had given instructions for six cities of refuge to be appointed. (three in Gilead and three in Canaan)
- B. The land of Gilead had been conquered, but the cities of refuge had not yet been designated.
- C. There could arise a need for this appointment before the conquest of Canaan would be finished.
- D. Therefore, Moses appointed three cities in Gilead to be cities of refuge. (He did this in the interlude between the first and second speech.) V. 41-43

### III. Some introductory remarks before the second speech V. 44-49

- A. These words were not spoken to the people as an introduction to the speech.
- B. Rather, they were written for the benefit of the readers of this book to introduce them to his second speech.
- C. In the second speech he would repeat the law which God had given back at Mt. Sinai. V.44-45
- D. He points out to his readers that the Israelites were at this time encamped east of the Jordan river and were in Gilead which they had already conquered. V. 46-49
  1. This land would be counted as a part of the total land-grant given to them by the Lord. (Given to Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh.)
  2. But in the meantime it would serve as a safe haven for the women and children of those tribes while the men folk were off to war conquering Canaan.

Conclusion:

1. We all need to be informed what God's will is for our lives.
2. We all need to be reminded from time to time.
3. We need to remember how good God has been to us to encourage us to do His will.