

Deuteronomy Chapter 03 Commentary

1 Then we turned, and went up the way to Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. 2 And the LORD said unto me, Fear him not: for I will deliver him, and all his people, and his land, into thy hand; and thou shalt do unto him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon. 3 So the LORD our God delivered into our hands Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people: and we smote him until none was left to him remaining.

"So the LORD our God delivered into our hands Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people:" I would point out here; Moses rightly points out; the deliverance was of God.

"and we smote him until none was left to him remaining." However, he also points out, they were the instruments that God used to accomplish this. There is a lesson in this for us today. God has not called us, out of the night of death and given us life, so we can just sit down and do nothing. He has called us forth to an active life, in the warfare against ungodliness, and we need to be about God's business. Ours should be a life of bearing good fruit.

How do we do that? First and foremost; we must live the life, of a born again sinner (of a Christian), to the full in demonstration of, and in, the power of the Holy Spirit presence in us. This brings glory to the name of God, and we receive the blessing of deliverance, from God to us.

That is why; we, like Moses did to God, must give glory first to Christ, our deliverer, and then acknowledge the works, we have been able to do, are only by the blessings of Christ who strengtheneth us as seen in: **Php 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."**

4 And we took all his cities at that time, there was not a city which we took not from them, threescore cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. 5 All these cities were fenced with high walls, gates, and bars; beside unwalled towns a great many.

Did you notice here; Moses points out; these people were in greatly defended cities with high walls, gates, and bars? The lesson for us is: there is no obstacle that God cannot overcome for us, if we believe, and trust fully in Christ Jesus. After all; Jesus Christ has already overcome the world, its traps, and failures, as seen in the following references:

- **Re 3:21 "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."**
- **1Jo 5:4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."**
- **Re 12:11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."**
- **Re 15:2 "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God."**

The notable point, of these references, is to point out: the victory for us is always by Jesus Christ. It is the gift of God unto us as seen in these references:

- ***Ro 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."***
- ***Eph 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"***

Praise God for our victory in Christ Jesus! Hallelujah! Amen!

6 And we utterly destroyed them, as we did unto Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children, of every city. 7 But all the cattle, and the spoil of the cities, we took for a prey to ourselves. 8 And we took at that time out of the hand of the two kings of the Amorites the land that was on this side Jordan, from the river of Arnon unto mount Hermon; 9 (Which Hermon the Sidonians call Sirion; and the Amorites call it Shenir;) 10 All the cities of the plain, and all Gilead, and all Bashan, unto Salchah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan. 11 For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man.

We remember, when Israel was first commanded to enter the Promised Land, that 10 of the spies that were sent out brought back an evil report and said: ***Nu 13:33 "And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."***

This is what caused Israel to falter, in disbelief of God's delivering power to start with. This unbelief, in God's power of deliverance, caused Israel to spend 40 years in the wilderness under the judicial judgment of God. With this taking of Sihon and Bashan, God's people are certainly encouraged, and their faith fortified, to trust and believe in God's delivering power.

The lesson here is: We can be encouraged, and our faith can be strengthened, in the delivering power of Christ Jesus, who has already wrought that good work of redemption on our behalf. We know our redemption is secured by Christ already. This is an encouragement to the born again sinner. It should increase our faith in Christ's delivering, and protecting, power in our own lives. By faith we can move mountains, and trees, as stated in scripture in the references following:

- ***Mt 17:20 "And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."***
- ***Lu 17:6 "And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you."***

We note here; most commentators have Og being twice the size of an ordinary man. This confirms to us; God does not look upon the outward appearance of a man to judge him. It reminds us of David and Goliath the giant. Goliath was not a giant in the eyes of David, because he was a created being just like David, and David knew the creator of them both would deliver this giant into his hand, because the honor of the name of God was at stake.

Og may have been a giant of a man in size, but he is no match for our God. Consider all the miraculous things that Israel has seen God do. You can see how they would be encouraged to not fear this giant of a man. Likewise; we should not be overcome, with fear of our enemy, knowing who is on our side, the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 And this land, which we possessed at that time, from Aroer, which is by the river Arnon, and half mount Gilead, and the cities thereof, gave I unto the Reubenites and to the Gadites. 13 And the rest of Gilead, and all Bashan, being the kingdom of Og, gave I unto the half tribe of Manasseh; all the region of Argob, with all Bashan, which was called the land of giants. 14 Jair the son of Manasseh took all the country of Argob unto the coasts of Geshuri and Maachathi; and called them after his own name, Bashanhavothjair, unto this day. 15 And I gave Gilead unto Machir. 16 And unto the Reubenites and unto the Gadites I gave from Gilead even unto the river Arnon half the valley, and the border even unto the river Jabbok, which is the border of the children of Ammon; 17 The plain also, and Jordan, and the coast thereof, from Chinnereth even unto the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, under Ashdothpisgah eastward. 18 And I commanded you at that time, saying, The LORD your God hath given you this land to possess it: ye shall pass over armed before your brethren the children of Israel, all that are meet for the war. 19 But your wives, and your little ones, and your cattle, (for I know that ye have much cattle,) shall abide in your cities which I have given you; 20 Until the LORD have given rest unto your brethren, as well as unto you, and until they also possess the land which the LORD your God hath given them beyond Jordan: and then shall ye return every man unto his possession, which I have given you. 21 And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, Thine eyes have seen all that the LORD your God hath done unto these two kings: so shall the LORD do unto all the kingdoms whither thou passest.

We have a great reminder, in the encouragement of Joshua, and in the faithful promise of God to deliver the enemies of the Promised Land into his hand. If we are willing and obedient to God's call in our lives; God will overcome all our enemies through Jesus Christ, and we too will have the victory.

We see the command to stand together and help one another, in conquering the enemies in the Promised Land. What a valuable lesson for us today. We should stand together with all those who profess and live in the truth of God's Word, no matter what organized religion they profess. We should always be an encouragement to our brethren in Christ. You see; we are all members of the Church of Salvation by Grace, established by Jesus Christ.

We should remember also; Israel was not completely obedient to God when they entered the Promised Land. This caused them much conflict and tribulation. Today, if we live in disobedience to God, will have much tribulation brought upon us. We are going to have tribulation, because God tells us that in his word in: ***Joh 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."*** Whether the tribulations we suffer are for our own sins, or for our preparation by God to fulfill his purpose in our lives, we shall have the victory, at last, in eternal life in the eternal heaven, earth, and New Jerusalem, which we have been granted as a gift from Christ Jesus.

22 Ye shall not fear them: for the LORD your God he shall fight for you. 23 And I besought the LORD at that time, saying, 24 O Lord GOD, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and

according to thy might? 25 I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon.

"thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand" Moses points out; all that God has done, already, is just the beginning of the display of God's mighty power. The same is true in our lives today. Our deliverance from the bondage of sin, our salvation, is only the beginning of the demonstration of God's power of deliverance. Having called us from a dead and alienated state, to newness of life in Christ Jesus, we have only seen the beginning of God's mighty delivering power.

The revealing of Christ, on earth in time, is like this deliverance Moses is talking about, the beginning. Almighty God, through Jesus Christ and the Comforter that Christ sends to us in regeneration, are only the beginning of the revealing of the delivering power of God. We shall behold the fulness, of the delivering power of God, at the declaration of the end of time, when Christ shall call forth all of God's people to be brought out of earth into the new eternal heaven, earth and Jerusalem.

Moses pleads with God to allow him to pass over Jordan and see the Promised Land, and God tells him no. Why? Moses had failed to give the glory to God at Kadesh, when God caused the water to flow from the rock as seen in: ***Nu 20:1-13; 1 "Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there. 2 And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. 3 And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD! 4 And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there? 5 And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink. 6 And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them. 7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. 9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him. 10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? 11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. 12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. 13 This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them."***

God told Moses; the consequence of his sin, in this failure to give God all the glory, is God will not allow him to enter the Promised Land. However, God did allow him to look upon it from afar.

Allegorically, that is where we are today. We are able to enter the Promised Land in time, the Church of Salvation by Grace, but we cannot enter into our eternal rest until after our death. We see it afar off, with spiritual eyes, and long for the eternal day to come.

26 But the LORD was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the LORD said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter. 27 Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan. 28 But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see. 29 So we abode in the valley over against Bethpeor.

We have here, in verse 28, a prophetic picture of the finished work of Jesus Christ. How? Joshua by definition means; *Jehovah-saved*, and is identified with the name of Jesus, since the two names have the same definition, with the difference being that the first definition given for Jesus is "***the name of our Lord.***" The prophetic picture is; it is by and through Jesus Christ only; we shall be given entrance into the eternal Promised Land, in the eternal heaven, to dwell with our Lord and King Jesus forever.

There is a reason that we have this commandment of encouragement in the New Testament, just as seen here when God tells Moses to encourage Joshua.

- ***Eph 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"***
- ***Col 3:16; 12 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."***

Praise the Lord for the encouragement of those who fellowship in Christ Jesus!