

Deuteronomy Chapter 2 Commentary

1 Then we turned, and took our journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea, as the LORD spake unto me: and we compassed mount Seir many days. 2 And the LORD spake unto me, saying, 3 Ye have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward. 4 And command thou the people, saying, Ye are to pass through the coast of your brethren the children of Esau, which dwell in Seir; and they shall be afraid of you: take ye good heed unto yourselves therefore: 5 Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession.

We see that God honors and keeps his promises; even to those who are not identified as his own chosen and called people.

Ge 25:23; 21 "And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. 22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. 23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger." In this reference; we see that God has blessed Esau, and Jacob, even before they were born. We notice; God gave Jacob the preeminence over Esau.

Ge 27:40; 34 "And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father. 35 And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing. 36 And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me? 37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son? 38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept. 39 And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; 40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck." We see, in this reference, the reason that God tells Israel to not meddle with Esau, his people, and land. God promised to make Esau a great nation, and through the blessing of Isaac, God also gave Esau freedom from service to Jacob.

6 Ye shall buy meat of them for money, that ye may eat; and ye shall also buy water of them for money, that ye may drink. 7 For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

God recognizes that we can't live in complete isolation from the rest of the world. We must do business, and attend to our daily affairs, with those who are around us. That doesn't mean that we take up their customs and ungodly ways, only that, we must remember that we are not alone in the world, and God has a hand in the affairs of all people. God reminds us; we have, what we have, because of his blessings upon us.

8 And when we passed by from our brethren the children of Esau, which dwelt in Seir, through the way of the plain from Elath, and from Eziongaber, we turned and passed by the way of the wilderness of Moab.

Moses recognized that the children of Esau were their brethren. Today, we should acknowledge our kinship in Christ to one another, even if we dwell in different lands. If God has a redeemed people in every nation, kindred and tongue as described in; *Re 5:9-10; 9 "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."* we can believe; we have brethren in other denominations of religious practice, and among those who have no religious affiliation.

When you see people living the life, of a born again Christian, you should recognize; they are your brethren in Christ, through the grace of God, they too having obtained of the promise of God as we ourselves have.

We notice; these brethren of Israel did not give favor to Israel, yet Israel did not attack or molest them. This is a good lesson to us to tend to our own affairs, and not be trying to force someone else to do what God has bid us to do.

9 And the LORD said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give thee of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar unto the children of Lot for a possession. 10 The Emims dwelt therein in times past, a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; 11 Which also were accounted giants, as the Anakims; but the Moabites call them Emims. 12 The Horims also dwelt in Seir before time; but the children of Esau succeeded them, when they had destroyed them from before them, and dwelt in their stead; as Israel did unto the land of his possession, which the LORD gave unto them.

God tells Israel; you can't have Seir because I gave the possession of it to Esau, just as I am giving you the land of Canaan and this possession on this side Jordan. It belongs to Esau and you can't have even one foot of it.

13 Now rise up, said I, and get you over the brook Zered. And we went over the brook Zered. 14 And the space in which we came from Kadeshbarnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the LORD sware unto them. 15 For indeed the hand of the LORD was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed.

Moses is reminding the people; God did exactly what he said he would; by destroying those 20 years old and upward, who refused to enter into the Land of Promise the first time. This was accomplished over a 38 year period.

16 So it came to pass, when all the men of war were consumed and dead from among the people, 17 That the LORD spake unto me, saying, 18 Thou art to pass over through Ar, the coast of Moab, this day: 19 And when thou comest nigh over against the children of Ammon, distress them not, nor

meddle with them: for I will not give thee of the land of the children of Ammon any possession; because I have given it unto the children of Lot for a possession.

God points out that I gave this land to the children of Lot and you can't have it.

20 (That also was accounted a land of giants: giants dwelt therein in old time; and the Ammonites call them Zamzummims; 21 A people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; but the LORD destroyed them before them; and they succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead: 22 As he did to the children of Esau, which dwelt in Seir, when he destroyed the Horims from before them; and they succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead even unto this day: 23 And the Avims which dwelt in Hazerim, even unto Azzah, the Captorims, which came forth out of Captor, destroyed them, and dwelt in their stead.) 24 Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle. 25 This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee. 26 And I sent messengers out of the wilderness of Kedemoth unto Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying, 27 Let me pass through thy land: I will go along by the high way, I will neither turn unto the right hand nor to the left. 28 Thou shalt sell me meat for money, that I may eat; and give me water for money, that I may drink: only I will pass through on my feet; 29 (As the children of Esau which dwell in Seir, and the Moabites which dwell in Ar, did unto me;) until I shall pass over Jordan into the land which the LORD our God giveth us. 30 But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.

Again, we see God working in the unregenerate, to bring to fruition his purposed designs for his people. Moses reminds the people of this, and of the great deliverance that God wrought on their behalf.

This is the same course of action that God used to bring to fruition the release of Israel from Egypt. God used the hardness of the hearts of both of these kings and their people, to fulfill his purposed designs, and to demonstrate that God is on his throne and rules, and reigns, in heaven, and on earth, to accomplish His sovereign will.

31 And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land before thee: begin to possess, that thou mayest inherit his land. 32 Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to fight at Jahaz. 33 And the LORD our God delivered him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people. 34 And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain: 35 Only the cattle we took for a prey unto ourselves, and the spoil of the cities which we took.

Notice, Moses reminds Israel that God did two things:

- I give you the land of Sihon as a possession
- I delivered the inhabitants to you; so you could destroy them. It was God's deliverance that gave them the possession.

Just as when they came forth from Egypt with the wealth of the Egyptians, here, they come forth with the wealth of the Amorites. This shows us that God gives more than we do. What do you mean?

Remember, Israel had to purchase their provisions as they went through the lands of their brethren? Here, in the victory over the Amorites, and in the taking of their wealth, God has replenished the funds of Israel and added thereto, I believe, so as to cover the cost they expended and have an abundance left over.

36 From Aroer, which is by the brink of the river of Arnon, and from the city that is by the river, even unto Gilead, there was not one city too strong for us: the LORD our God delivered all unto us: 37 Only unto the land of the children of Ammon thou camest not, nor unto any place of the river Jabbok, nor unto the cities in the mountains, nor unto whatsoever the LORD our God forbad us.

Moses reminds Israel; God conquered their enemies and gave them the land of the King of Sihon as a possession. They conquered and destroyed the Amorites, but not any land that God had given to others.

Don't forget to notice; Israel sent a message of peace, and offered to buy their passage through the land of Sihon, but God hardened the king's heart and they went to war against Israel as seen in: **De 2:30 "But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day."** This is a reminder; God works wonders, to accomplish his own will, which men do not see or understand.

Remember what God said of Pharaoh, king of Egypt: **Ex 9:16; 13 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. 14 For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth. 15 For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth. 16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth."**

Just another reminder to us; God does what he says, and we can have confidence in "**thus saith the Lord.**"

Some points we don't want to miss from this chapter are:

- There are some lands and people that are under the protection of God. They are not to be messed with, as the people and lands of Esau and the children of Lot. What lesson can we draw from this today? One immediate thought that I have is of other religious orders. Although, I may not agree with their beliefs and actions, I can't discern whether God has a people among them or not. We know from scripture that God has a people in all nations, kindreds and tongues. Also, we know the commandment of Jesus given to his disciples in: **Lu 9:49-50; 49 "And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbade him, because he followeth not with us. 50 And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us."**
- All this time in the dessert was a time of preparation for Israel, to ready them to enter the Promised Land. God does the same thing to/for us today. Before we are born again; we go through all the trials and temptations that are needed to prepare our hearts to receive the gift of the grace of God.

- This was a time (40 wilderness years) for Israel to learn that there is a penalty and consequence for sin and disobedience to God. The same is true for us. We must learn that there is always a consequence for sin in our own lives; the consequence for which we must suffer here, but not in eternity, since Christ has paid the eternal price for the remission of sin.
- While God was preparing Israel; God was also preparing the Canaanites and Amorites for their own destruction. The time of their iniquity was filling up, and when their time of iniquity was full, God took action to destroy them.

There is a great lesson for us in this truth. We see today many people, who it seems, are living in sin and getting by with it, even prospering in sin, and we say to ourselves; this just isn't right. However, we must remember that God does things in his own way and time.

It may be; as we see these things happening around us, God is preparing us for our possession of the Promised Land, and at the same time God is waiting on the time of their iniquity to be filled. The punishment of sinners, that are not born again, may not happen in our sight or our lifetime. It can happen at the time of their death, but surely will happen at the time of the end of time; the time of the resurrection when all men shall stand before God and Christ in judgment. This is when the time of iniquity will finally be filled to the full, and God's wrath and vengeance will be satisfied forever.

Those sinners, whose hearts have been humbled, and they have become obedient followers of Jesus Christ, will be carried into the eternal Promised Land. Sinners, who have rejected the name and power of Jesus Christ, will be sent into everlasting punishment, in the lake of fire, with satan and his minions. God plainly tells us this in: ***Hab 2:3 "For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."***

Praise the Lord, who uses the consequences of our own sins to humble our hearts, and to prepare us to serve and follow Christ in the way of Salvation by Grace.