



Lesson 42 – The Conquest of Bashan

based on Deuteronomy 2; 3:1-11.

Forty years of wandering had passed. The Children of Israel were headed to the Promised Land. Miriam and Aaron had died and Moses was left, led by God to bring the Israelites right up to the borders of the promise.

Edom would not let them go through the land and because they had not fulfilled their time of probation yet, God allowed them to stand. Had the Children of Israel been faithful at the first command to go through Edom, they would have had nothing to say about it. But because the Children of Israel complained, they had to go around.

- 1) What had God told them about the Moabite neighbors of Edom to the north?

Deuteronomy 2:9 And the LORD said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give _____ of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar unto the children of Lot for a possession.

- 2) Of the Ammonites?

Deuteronomy 2:19 And when thou comest nigh over against the children of Ammon, distress them not, nor meddle with them: for I will not give _____ of the land of the children of Ammon any possession; because I have given it unto the children of Lot for a possession.

After passing to the south of Edom, the Israelites turned northward and again set their faces toward the Promised Land. Their route now lay over a vast, elevated plain, swept by cool, fresh breezes from the hills. It was a welcome change from the parched valley through which they had been traveling, and they pressed forward, buoyant and hopeful. Having crossed the brook Zered, they passed to the east of the land of Moab

- 3) Where were they to push through to get to Cannan?

Deuteronomy 2:24 Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the _____, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle.

- 4) What promise went with the command?

Deuteronomy 2:25 This day will I begin to put the _____ of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall _____, and be in anguish because of thee.

- 5) What friendly message did Moses send to Sihon, King of Arnon?

Deuteronomy 2:27-28 Let me pass through thy land: I will go along by the high way, I will neither turn unto the _____ hand nor to the _____. Thou shalt sell me meat for money, that I may eat; and give me water for money, that I may drink: only I will _____ through on my feet;

- 6) Was Sihon excited to see them?

Deuteronomy 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 _____, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.



The answer was a decided refusal, and all the hosts of the Amorites were summoned to oppose the progress of the invaders. This formidable army struck terror to the Israelites, who were poorly prepared for an encounter with well-armed and well-disciplined forces. So far as skill in warfare was concerned, their enemies had the advantage. To all human appearance, a speedy end would be made of Israel.

7) What was the directive from the LORD?

Deuteronomy 2:24 Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, _____ given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle..

Moses kept his gaze fixed upon the cloudy pillar and encouraged the people with the thought that the token of God's presence was still with them. At the same time, he directed them to do all that human power could do in preparing for war. Their enemies were eager for battle, and confident that they would blot out the unprepared Israelites from the land.

8) How long had God been merciful and pleading with the Amorites?

Genesis 15:16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the _____ is not yet full. (*note: God was speaking to Abraham*)

These nations on the borders of Canaan would have been spared, had they not stood, in defiance of God's word, to oppose the progress of Israel. The Lord had shown Himself to be long-suffering, of great kindness and tender pity, even to these heathen peoples.

Although the Amorites were idolaters, whose life was justly forfeited by their great wickedness, God spared them four hundred years to give them unmistakable evidence that He was the only true God, the Maker of heaven and earth. All His wonders in bringing Israel from Egypt were known to them. Sufficient evidence was given; they might have known the truth, had they been willing to turn from their idolatry and licentiousness. But they rejected the light and clung to their idols.

9) What had the Amorites seen just recently?

Numbers 21:3 (speaking of the kingdom of Arad) And the LORD _____ to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities: and he called the name of the place Hormah.

10) What else did they hear about?

Numbers 21:9 And Moses made a serpent of _____, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

When the Lord brought His people a second time to the borders of Canaan, additional evidence of His power was granted to those heathen nations. They saw that God was with Israel in the victory gained over King Arad and the Canaanites, and in the miracle wrought to save those who were perishing from the sting of the serpents.



the Israelites had been refused a passage through the land of Edom, thus being compelled to take the long and difficult route by the Red Sea, yet in all their journeyings and encampments, past the land of Edom, of Moab and Ammon, they had shown no hostility and had done no injury to the people or their possessions. On reaching the border of the Amorites, Israel had asked permission only to travel directly through the country, promising to observe the same rules that had governed their intercourse with other nations. When the Amorite king refused this courteous solicitation, and defiantly gathered his hosts for battle, their cup of iniquity was full, and God would now exercise His power for their overthrow.

11) What happened?

Deuteronomy 2:32-33 Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to fight at Jahaz. And the LORD our God _____ him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people.

It was the Captain of the Lord's host who vanquished the enemies of His people; and He would have done the same thirty-eight years before had Israel trusted in Him .

12) What was next for the Israelites?

Deuteronomy 3:1 Then we turned, and went up the way to _____: and Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.

Filled with hope and courage, the army of Israel eagerly pressed forward, and still journeying northward, they soon reached a country that might well test their courage and their faith in God. Before them lay the powerful and populous kingdom of Bashan, crowded with great stone cities that to this day excite the wonder of the world.

the cloudy pillar moved forward, and following its guidance the Hebrew hosts advanced to Edrei, where the giant king, with his forces, awaited their approach. Og had skillfully chosen the place of battle. The city of Edrei was situated upon the border of a tableland rising abruptly from the plain, and covered with jagged, volcanic rocks. It could be approached only by narrow pathways, steep and difficult of ascent. In case of defeat, his forces could find refuge in that wilderness of rocks, where it would be impossible for strangers to follow them.

13) What did the LORD tell them?

Deuteronomy 3:2 And the LORD said unto me, Fear him _____: 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.

Confident of success, the king came forth with an immense army upon the open plain, while shouts of defiance were heard from the tableland above, where might be seen the spears of thousands, eager for the fray.

14) What happened?

Deuteronomy 3:3-4 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. 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.



They trusted all to His omnipotent arm, and He did not fail them. Not mighty giants nor walled cities, armed hosts nor rocky fortresses, could stand before the Captain of the Lord's host. The Lord led the army; the Lord discomfited the enemy; the Lord conquered in behalf of Israel. The giant king and his army were destroyed, and the Israelites soon took possession of the whole country. Thus, was blotted from the earth that strange people who had given themselves up to iniquity and abominable idolatry.

15) Where did they go next?

Deuteronomy 3:8, 10 And we took at that time out of the hand of the two _____ of the Amorites the land that was on this side Jordan, from the river of Arnon unto mount Hermon... All the cities of the plain, and all Gilead, and all Bashan, unto Salchah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of _____ in Bashan.

In their contest with Og and Sihon the people were brought to the same test beneath which their fathers had so signally failed. But the trial was now far more severe than when God had commanded Israel to go forward. The difficulties in their way had greatly increased since they refused to advance when bidden to do so in the name of the Lord. It is thus that God still tests His people. And if they fail to endure the trial, He brings them again to the same point, and the second time the trial will come closer, and be more severe than the preceding. This is continued until they bear the test, or, if they are still rebellious, God withdraws His light from them and leaves them in darkness.

The Son of God, enshrined in the cloudy pillar, led the way; and the sacred ark accompanied the host. This experience has a lesson for us. The mighty God of Israel is our God. In Him we may trust, and if we obey His requirements He will work for us in as signal a manner as He did for His ancient people. Everyone who seeks to follow the path of duty will at times be assailed by doubt and unbelief. The way will sometimes be so barred by obstacles, apparently insurmountable, as to dishearten those who will yield to discouragement; but God is saying to such, Go forward. Do your duty at any cost. The difficulties that seem so formidable, that fill your soul with dread, will vanish as you move forward in the path of obedience, humbly trusting in God.

Can you see how close we are to our Promised Land?

Would you like to go home?

When is it time to humbly seek our God?