

## **210714-4 Deu 2, From Kadesh-barnea to the Conflict with Sihon –CThurman**

As you might recall the book of Deuteronomy is a review given to Israel by Moses of their sojourn after they crossed the Red Sea to the time they arrive to the plains of Moab, where they are presently located. Moses delivered this account to Israel in the 40<sup>th</sup> year, 11<sup>th</sup> month, 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month. (cf. Deu.1.3) Seventy days later Joshua will lead Israel across the Jordan River, on dry land, on the 41<sup>st</sup> year, 1<sup>st</sup> month, 10<sup>th</sup> day. (cf. Jos.4.19) Of these seventy days, thirty will be to mourn the death of Moses (cf. Deu. 34.8) and there will be some time for Joshua to prepare Israel for crossing over the Jordan River. These things considered, it is my opinion that Moses probably dies at the end of this 11<sup>th</sup> month.

At this time Moses appears to have come to a crossroads concerning his health. He has the desire, the mind, the drive, but not the ability.

*De 34:7 And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.*

*his natural force, נִחְיָהּ, lehy-chōh, of the noun נִחְיָהּ, leyh-ach, only this once in the OT; Wigram notation, 'moisture'; Benjamin Davidson's Hebrew Lexicon, freshness, vigor; the unused verb root is נִחְיָהּ, la-chach; B-D-B Lexicon, נִחְיָהּ, lehy-ach, a masc. noun, 'and his freshness had not fled.' Of Deu. 34.7 the LXX has, 'his eyes were not dimmed, nor were his natural powers destroyed [destroyed, φθείρω, corrupted].*

*abated, נָחַס, nahs, Qal pret. of נָחַס, noos, tss. to flee, to flee away, to run away, to lift up.*

*De 31:2 And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.*

The first chapter tells us that during Israel's stay at Horeb Moses had appointed a tiered judicial system to judge the nation of Israel. Only the difficult cases would be brought to him for judgment. (cf. 1.9-17) After the LORD had determined that

they had been here *long enough*, He moved them to camp at Kadesh-barnea, a place noted for the time when Israel refused to come into the land of Canaan. For this rebellion the LORD condemned Israel to forty years of wandering in the wilderness until all the men that were 20+ years had died. The chapter ends by stating that Israel had encamped in Kadesh-barnea for many days.

This second chapter will fast-forward to the end of the 40 yr. sojourn (v.7). Israel shall travel around Edom's most southern border, then up past Moab to the land of the Amorites or plains of Moab to defeat Sihon, king of Heshbon.

**1 ¶ Then we turned, and took our journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea, as the LORD spake unto me:**

But before Israel did this they rebelled again against the word of the LORD and attempted to go up into Canaan anyway.

*Nu.14.19 Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.*

*20 ¶ And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:*

*21 But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.*

*22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;*

*23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:*

*24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.*

*25 (Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwelt in the valley.) To morrow turn you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.*

So Israel suffered defeat at the hands of the Amalekites and Canaanites. And Israel then did as the LORD commanded.

***and we compassed mount Seir many days.***

*compassed, בָּחַף, noh-sahv, Qal fut. of בָּחַף, sah-vav, tss. to compass. to go in circuit, to compass about, to be about, to come round about, to turn about, to beset, to be led about, etc.*

**2 And the LORD spake unto me, saying,**

**3 Ye have compassed this mountain long enough:**

In ch.1.6 Israel had *dwelt* long enough in Horeb. In ch.1.46 they were many *days* in Kadesh-barnea. In ch. 2 they *went about* mount Seir many *days*. And here, in ch. 2.3, they had *gone about* this mount much. Now it is time for the nation to come up north probably to Edom's southwest border. From this point entering the land of Canaan will be from a different location than that way which was proposed at the first.

***turn you northward.***

The history of this for Israel was only ten months ago.

This is a fast-forward in the history of Israel's 40-yr. sojourn through the wilderness. This touches very briefly on the last leg of the trip. It is from Kadesh, where Miriam dies, that Israel sent men to Edom requesting passage *through the midst* their country.

*Nu 20:14 And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom, Thus saith thy brother Israel, Thou knowest all the travail that hath befallen us:*

...

*17 Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy country: we will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, neither will we drink of the water of the wells: we will go by the king's high way, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders.*

*18 And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword.*

19 And the children of Israel said unto him, We will go by the high way: and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will pay for it: I will only, without doing any thing else, go through on my feet.

20 And he said, Thou shalt not go through. And Edom came out against him with much people, and with a strong hand.

21 Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.

Israel hoped for a more direct route to come up into Canaan, but Edom denies them that. But the LORD leads them through another way. Edom will not resist Israel taking this path.

**4 And command thou the people, saying, Ye are to pass through (by) the coast of your brethren the children of Esau, which dwell in Seir;**

*through the coast of*, בְּגִבּוֹל, big-bōhl, the prefixed preposition בְּ, by or through, to the noun גִּבּוֹל, g'-voal, tss. *the border, coasts, bounds, landmark, space, limit.*

**and they shall be afraid of you:**

In this way, in the LORD's way the nations shall fear.

*Ex.15.13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.*

14 The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina.

15 Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away.

16 Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.

17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.

*18 The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.*

Though Esau/Edom/Seir doesn't allow direct passage through their land, Edom does not interfere with Israel's passage along its boundary.

*Jud.11.16 But when Israel came up from Egypt, and walked through the wilderness unto the Red sea, and came to Kadesh;*

*17 Then (38 yrs. later) Israel sent messengers (from Kadesh) unto the king of Edom, saying, Let me, I pray thee, pass through thy land: but the king of Edom would not hearken thereto. ...*

*18 Then they went along through the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom ...*

***take ye good heed unto yourselves therefore:***

*take ye ... heed unto yourselves, the Hebrew verb שָׁמַר, sha-mar, in Niphal (simple passive) pret. also tss. (other Niphals) to keep themselves, to take heed, to save themselves, to preserve.*

***5 Meddle not with them;***

*meddle, Hithpael (reflexive act.) fut. of the Hebrew verb גָּרַח, gah-rah, tss. (Piel [intensive act.]) to stir up, (Hithpael [reflexive]) to strive, to contend, to meddle, to be stirred up.*

***for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth;***  
step of the sole of a foot

***because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession.***

Esau and his descendants have their own land.

*Ge.27.39 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.*

*Gen.32.3 ¶ And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom.*

***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.***

*buy (food), שָׁוַר, sha-var, tss. to buy, to sell, and always with reference to food (grains and edibles).*

*buy (water), כָּרַח, car-rah, tss. to dig, to open, to buy; carries with it the idea of digging a well to obtain the water. Israel would have to purchase water either that was provided from the wells of others or pay for the right to dig wells in order to have water.*

***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.***

The LORD has provided every need for His people. If they desired something 'more' then they should purchase it.

*Deu.29.5 And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot.*

***6 Ye have not eaten bread, neither have ye drunk wine or strong drink: that ye might know that I am the LORD your God.***

This text does not mean that they never ate bread or drank other than water, but they could have obtained these things from neighboring people.

**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.**

**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.**

Moab is Lot's son by his oldest daughter:

*Ge.19.37 And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day.*

Moab's land is generally marked out as being from the river Zered in the south to the river Arnon in the north. Ar seems to be a major city that belongs to Moab. (cf. Is.15.1)

*Jud.11.17b ... And in like manner they sent unto the king of Moab: but he would not consent: and Israel abode in Kadesh.*

*18 Then they went along through the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of the land of Moab, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, but came not within the border of Moab: for Arnon was the border of Moab.*

**10 The Emims dwelt therein in times past, a people great, and many, and tall,**

*Emims, עִמִּים, definite article the, עִמִּים, ey-mim, masc. pl. noun, of עִמָּ, to terrify; עִמָּ, adj. tss. terrible; עִמָּה, eh-mah, a fem. noun, tss. an horror, a fear, a terror, a dread, and once idols; **Ge.14. 5.***

The LXX at Gen.14 calls all these great people γίγαντες, γίγαντος, from γίγας, giant.

**as the Anakims;**

*Nu 13:22 And they(the 12 spies of Israel) ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the children*

of Anak, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

...

28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

...

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.

**11 Which also were accounted giants,**

giants, רַפְּאִים, r'-pha-eem, pl. masc. noun of רַפָּא, rah-phah, tss. *Rephaims, giants*; note of Goliath in 1Chr.20.4, 6, 8, the phrase, 'children of the giant' could be interpreted to read, 'children of Rapha [see marginal note at v.10].

**as the Anakims; but the Moabites call them Emims.**

**12 The Horims also dwelt in Seir beforetime;**

See also v.20, *giants*, and note the names of these, the *Anakims, Horims, Zamzumims, Avims, Caphtorims* are all giants who had a renowned presence in the land before Abraham. In Genesis chapter 14 a number of these giants suffered defeat in the war of the kings.

**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.**

This reference, *as Israel did*, is either to what they recently had done in defeating the Amorites and taking all the land on the east side of the Jordan River, or that Moses writes prophetically of their conquest of the land of Canaan on the western side of the Jordan River, or both.

**13 Now rise up, said I, and get you over the brook Zered. And we went over the brook Zered.**



Zered marks the boundary between Edom and Moab. Israel comes along the easternmost boundary up to Arnon, which brings them into the country that now belongs to the Amorites.

***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.***

From the information given here it appears that there was two years' time for Israel to come from Egypt until they arrived to Kadesh-barnea.

*Nu.14.33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.*

*34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.*

***15 For indeed the hand of the LORD was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed.***

***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:***

The city of Ar is either a general term for Moab or this city marks Moab's most eastern boundary. So Israel is traveling between the boundaries of these countries.

***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.***

Ammon is Lot's son by his youngest daughter:

*Ge.19.37 And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day.*

**20 (That also was accounted a land of giants: giants dwelt therein in old time; and the Ammonites call them Zamzúmmims;**

*Zamzummims, perhaps related to the verb זָמַם, za-mam, tss. to devise, to consider, to devise evil, to purpose, to plot, to imagine.*

**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 Caphtorims, which came forth out of Caphtor, destroyed them, and dwelt in their stead.)**

Caphtorim (Ge.10.14)

So, don't meddle with Ammon either, but ...

**24 ¶ Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon:**

*Jud.11.19 And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon; and Israel said unto him, Let us pass, we pray thee, through thy land into my place.*

**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.**

*and contend with, וְהִתְגַּרְּ, Hithpael (reflexive act.) imper. of גָּרַה, gah-rah, tss. to meddle, to stir up, to contend, to strive; the Hithpael, 'to stir up yourselves'.*

**25 This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee**

*the dread, פַּחַד, pah-chad, a masc. noun tss. to fear, to dread, & terror. Dict., of the noun 'great fear esp. in the face of impending evil; extreme uneasiness in the face of a disagreeable prospect.*

*fear, יִרָא, of the fem. noun יִרְאָה, yeer-rah, fear, fearful, & dreadful; dict. 'an unpleasant often strong emotion cause by anticipation or awareness of danger'.*

***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.***

*shall tremble, רָגַז, rah-gaz, tss. to tremble, to quake, to rage, to be disquieted, to be moved, to stand in awe, to fall out, to be afraid, to be much moved, to be troubled.*

*and be in anguish, Qal pret. of לָחַץ, chool, tss. to be in anguish, to be in pain, to travail as with child, to grieve, to fear, to tremble to stay, to tarry, to be afraid, to sorrow.*

***26 And I sent messengers out of the wilderness of Kedemoth unto Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying,***

*Ro 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

***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;)***

Meaning that though direct passage through Edom was not allowed they did buy and sell such things as they needed. (cf. v.6)

***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,**

*hardened*, Hiphil (causative act.) pret. of the Hebrew verb קָשָׁה, qa-shah, tss. *to be hard, grievous, stiff, stiff[necked]*.

**and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.**

*and made ... obstinate*, the Hebrew Piel (intensive act.) pret. of the verb אָמַץ, ah-matz, tss. *to be strong, of good courage, to be courageous, to prevail, to be obstinate, to be established (fixed, resolved), to be confirmed, to be hardened, to be increased, to be stedfastly minded*. The Piel verb means to be busy, repetitive, intense.

The LORD made Sihon's heart stedfast, resolved, fixed in his opposition to Israel's request.

**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.**

Why would the LORD make the heart of the king of Heshbon hard and obstinate to oppose Israel's request to let them pass by them on their way to Canaan? Did the LORD make Sihon do something against his will? No. The LORD used Sihon's natural animus against Israel to accomplish His perfect will for His chosen nation; a will which was ordained before the world began. (cf. 1Co.2.7) In this way the LORD may bring Sihon and the Amorites into judgment to be destroyed and removed from the land so that Israel might take possession of it, '*... that he might deliver him into thy hand ... that thou mayest inherit his land.*' The LORD by hardening the heart of Pharaoh brought about the destruction of Egypt.

*Ex.7.3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.*

*4 But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.*

*5 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.*

*Pr 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*

*1Ki 22:20 And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.*

*21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him.*

*22 And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.*

*Re 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*

*14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

*Da 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding ...*

*Dan.4.35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*

*Ro 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

**32 Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to fight at Jahaz.**

*Jud.11.20 But Sihon trusted not Israel to pass through his coast: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and pitched in Jahaz, and fought against Israel.*

**33 And the LORD our God delivered him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people.**

*Jud.11. 21 And the LORD God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they smote them: so Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country.*

**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.**

*Jud.11.22 And they possessed all the coasts of the Amorites, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and from the wilderness even unto Jordan.*

Remember, when Israel fought against Midian they took spoils of war? There Israel was commanded how to equitably distribute the spoils of war among the nation. (cf. Nu. 31.25-47)

**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:**

So Israel routed the Amorites from the land. The time for Israel to possess this land and the time for the Amorites to be dispossessed of it was of the LORD. Perfect timing that only the LORD could do.

*Le.18.24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:  
25 And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.  
26 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you:  
27 (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;)  
28 That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you.*

Edom received their land conquering the giants that formerly possessed it. (v.12, 22) Moab and Ammon did the same. (vss. 10, 11, 20, 21) But one day they shall corrupt and be removed from their possession. (cf. Amos 1.13; Zep.2.9; Mal.1.4) Kingdoms and nations rise and fall. But Israel shall be the greatest nation of the earth for a thousand years. (cf. Deu.28.13)

Moses rightly attributes this victory to the LORD, *The LORD our God delivered all unto us*. And in that coming kingdom we'll say the same. The LORD 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.***

Israel did not go up into the mountains and the cities there, but at the moment only took that part which was Sihon's, which ran from the river Arnon up to the river Jabbok.

Israel is now camped in the place called the plains of Moab, and the LORD now turns the eyes of Israel's warriors northward to the kingdom of Og.