

**June 27**

**Scriptures:** Read Deuteronomy 2

**Key Verse:** “For the Lord your God had blessed you in all the work of your hand. He knows your trudging through the great wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God had been with you; you have lacked nothing.” (Deuteronomy 2:7)

### **Overview**

In this chapter, Moses continued teaching the new generation of their history, bringing it up to their own time and events in which they were involved. He laid stress on the fact that even while Israel was exiled to the hard life of the wilderness, God continued to guide and care for them. They were in a period of discipline, but not abandonment. Though they had rejected God and insulted Him by their words and rebellion, He lovingly saw to it that they lacked nothing (2:7). They had sufficient food, water, clothing, and divine protection.

It appears that most of their wanderings were in the area of Mount Seir until the Lord gave them word to go northward (2:1-3). They had a specific destination; they were not to wage war, not take the territory of their “brethren” from Edom (descendant of Esau), Moab, or Ammon (descendants of Lot), for they were kinsmen, and God had given them their lands as a possession. God had also driven out and destroyed the “giants” (men of large stature) for these descendants of Abraham. Hearing this would encourage the new generation of Israelites, for if God had done this for those people, He surely would do the same for His own chosen people. Therefore, they were not to fear the large people in the land of Canaan as their parents had done. Learning of this would give them courage and confidence to boldly go in and take the land of Canaan.

By the time they crossed over the Valley of Zered (the main valley and stream from the east which flows into the southern end of the Dead Sea), all the fighting men who had been numbered in the first census and who had rebelled against God (Num.1; 14:29) had died, just as the Lord had said. From this time on, God began to move in a mighty way and caused the other nations to fear Israel (2:25), for His army was on the move. He announced to all the new generation of fighting men: “Rise, take your journey” (2:24). Because the Lord was with them, they went on to be victorious over Sihon, king of the Amorites, and to possess his land (cf. Num.21:21-24). Their time was indeed ripe for judgment, as the Lord had prophesied to Abraham, and it came about at the set time of Israel’s conquest (cf. Gen.15:16). There were still Amorites in the land of Canaan who had yet to be conquered, but all those who had spread into Transjordan were totally destroyed. With this victory, God demonstrated His power and absolute authority on behalf of Israel.

This story of victory told to them by Moses would give courage and faith to go on believing that God would again go before them and give them more victories, for they had yet to cross the Jordan and engage in battle with the Canaanites. However, knowing their enemies feared them and that God would be with them must have given them tremendous confidence, not in themselves, but in God who would enable them by His power. God was, and still is, in control of events and gives victory and blessings to those who are faithful and obedient to Him.

### **Prayer**

O Lord, we thank You for Your great blessings upon us in the past. May our present and future be blessed, too. Please guide, protect, and inspire us to follow in your perfect plan.