

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 32
Deuteronomy 2

INTRODUCTION: The children of Israel were on their way to the Promised Land. They came to the country possessed by the children of Esau and other heathen people. Before they passed through these nations, God told Moses to gather the people together and instruct them as to how they should behave on their journey through this foreign land. The foreign land represents the world. The children of Israel represent God's people. The way they were to behave as they made their way through these heathen lands is the way we are supposed to behave as we journey on our way to Heaven. The Bible very plainly tells us in Philippians 3:20 that we are citizens of Heaven. The song is right: "This world is not my home; I'm just a passing through! My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue." No doubt the Holy Spirit inspired the writing of this particular passage in the Bible in order that we as God's people will know how we are to react and behave on our journey to Heaven through this evil and pagan world.

Several verses in Deuteronomy 2 instructed the Israelites as to how they were to behave as they journeyed through these lands. Let us notice them.

- I. THEY WERE NOT TO MEDDLE WITH THEM. Notice in Deuteronomy 2:5a the words, "Meddle not with them." This means, "Avoid their thrills." Though the Israelites had to pass through the land, they were to avoid the thrills of the land. They did not need these synthetic thrills. They had crossed the Red Sea on dry ground. They got manna from Heaven every morning; they got water miraculously from the rock in Horeb. They were led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

The Christian does not need the synthetic, cheap thrills of the world. We have the constant thrill of walking with Christ; we have the constant excitement of the Christian life!

- II. THEY WERE NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED OR ENRAPTURED WITH THE POSSESSIONS OF THE HEATHEN LAND. Notice Deuteronomy 2:5b. Actually they were going through the land of Moab, Edom, etc., and they were not to become covetous of the possessions. Why should Israel, bound for a land which flows with milk and honey, even want to stay around and own a lot in Moab? Should the Christian bound for an eternal city get wrapped up in material possessions on his journey to Heaven? No! We are to lay up our treasures in Heaven. (Teacher, teach the importance of tithing and giving God offerings.)
- III. THEY WERE INSTRUCTED TO BE HONEST. See Deuteronomy 2:6. They were not to be parasites nor irresponsible travelers. They were to pay for their food. They were to pay their debts. As the Christian passes through this pagan world, he is to be an example of honesty, integrity, and Christian character.
- IV. THEY WERE NOT TO BE AFFECTED BY THE MOABITES. They were not to speak as Moabites speak, dress as Moabites dress, sing music as Moabites sing music, wear hair styles like those of the Moabites or copy Moabite habits. They were to be different! (Teacher, stress the importance of the Christian being different. Talk about hair styles, music, language, etc.)
- V. THEY WERE TO AVOID ENTANGLEMENTS IN MOAB. They were instructed not to turn to the right hand or to the left. See Deuteronomy 2:27. They were not to attend "Moab University," go to Moab lodges, play on the Moab football team, marry Moabite women, attend Moabite churches, join Moabite clubs, etc. They were not to go with Moabite young people; the boys and girls were not to date the Moabite kids. They were to stay only on the main highway, not turning to the right or to the left.
- VI. THEY WERE INSTRUCTED NOT TO ENTER INTO CONFLICTS WITH THE MOABITES. Notice Deuteronomy 2:9. In other words, they were to be courteous and gracious. If they were criticized, they were not to criticize back. If they were slandered, they were not to slander back. They were to be courteous and friendly toward the Moabites. This does not mean they were to participate in their activities. It does mean they were to be exemplary in their deportment and in their relationship with the

heathen people. God wants us to be separate, but He does not want us to be Pharisees. We are not to participate in the sinful practices of this world, but we are to be courteous, gracious, and kind toward even the most sinful of people. We are not to be “holier than thou,” but we are to be holy. We are not to be “hypocritically pious,” but we are to be pious.

- VII. THEY WERE TO STAY ON THE HIGHWAY. Deuteronomy 2:27, 28, “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. 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.” This highway was God’s planned way for the Israelites to pass through the land. The Christian is to stay on the highway. God has a way for each of us to pass through the land. This represents the will of God for our lives. (Teacher, discuss with the pupil the will of God.) Any place out of the will of God is sin. It is a sin to do good if the doing of good is outside the will of God. It would be a sin for a Christian to be in Jerusalem if God’s will for him required that he be some other place. Anything outside the will of God is sin. The important thing for us is to realize that God has charted a course for each of us through this pagan world. We are to follow that course, ever doing His will.