

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

DEUTERONOMY 3

Deuteronomy 3

Deuteronomy three continues the story that began in the closing chapter of Deuteronomy chapter two. It is the story of God incrementally giving the land promised to Abraham, to the children of Israel after the Exodus. This is not apparent yet in the story, but soon will be. Moses and the people have crossed the great canyon of Zered and are in a territory ruled by an ancient despot named, Sihon. Moses sends messengers saying they are wanting peace but need food and supplies which they will pay for and that they will be good to the land. He also let King Sihon know that He wants no trouble and will peaceably pass through his land. King Sihon reacts to what he perceives to be a threat and attacks the people after God had hardened his already disobedient heart.

God had a plan. This king who ruled over what was the ancient land of Moab as far as the borders of the ancient land of Gilead would be defeated, and the land taken as part of the land of the inheritance of two-and-one-half tribes when all the land is divided decades later. God had a plan. Chapter three begins with the record of the next king

and territory to be defeated even farther north. This king ruled everything from the northern border of Gilead, which was then and now, the Yarmuk River. Everything north of the Yarmuk to the mountains of the Herman range and the plains of Damascus, was called "The Bashan" or in Hebrew "HaBashan." The is a tabletop plateau that is a fertile pastureland. Amos referred to this plateau and likened the women of his day to the "Cows of Bashan" his words, not mine. This part of the land in modern times is called by another name, the "Golan Heights."

Prayer and Action Steps

The recounting of the wilderness wanderings is a lesson in middle eastern geography. The ancient boundaries mentioned in the book of Deuteronomy are still visible today. God was leading and sustaining the people of His love, even when they were not aware of His presence. Thank God today that He leads you and sustains you even in times of you being unaware of His presence.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?
