

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study

“VICTORY FROM GOD’S HAND”

For individual study or group discussion

As we continue our studies in Deuteronomy, we witness the second generation of wilderness wanderers commence their journey into the Promised Land. God instructs Moses to “rise up” and “begin to take possession.” This time the children of Israel trust that their *victory will come from God’s hand*.

God delivers victory for his covenant people (2:24-25, 31; 3:2).

The promise of victory begins in Genesis 15 with the story of Abram, a man whom the Lord called out of the pagan country, Ur. God promises him a land that his descendants would one day possess, but not until “the iniquity of the Amorites” was complete (v. 16).

In today’s passage, God begins to fulfill this promise to Abram by leading the children of Israel into victory over the Amorites (2:32) and the last of the Rephaim (3:11). (cf. Genesis 15:18-21)

- The second generation trusted God would keep his covenant promise. Throughout Deuteronomy we find the phrase repeated by Moses to the Israelites as an encouragement, “The Lord will go before you” (Deuteronomy 1:30; 20:1 and 31:6, 8). How do the passages help you face your future with courage and move forward from failure? Reflect on God’s faithfulness to you over the years.
- God gives the kingdom to his people (Luke 12:32-34). He gifts the Holy Spirit to his people. However, in spiritual battle we still have to take action to stand against evil. Read Ephesians 6:10-17 in this light. What has to be taken or taken up?

God delivers judgment on unrelenting evildoers (2:26-3:11).

We find in Deuteronomy 2:24-3:11 a difficult passage for the modern reader. A picture of a God who would wipe out an entire nation of people offends our (Western) sense of justice. But as we dig deeper into the context of God’s patience with the Amorites, we begin to see a fuller picture of his righteous character.

- How did the Sihon’s refusal of the offer of peace play into the outworking of God’s judgment on the Amorites (v. 30)?
- Read Exodus 7:1-5. How does the story of God hardening Pharaoh’s heart shed light on this difficult passage?
- Read Romans 1:18-32. It’s a sobering reality to think that God would allow a sinner’s determination to embolden themselves against God’s will. How does Paul’s teaching impact your own heart of submission to God? How should the possibility of hardening one’s heart inform your prayer life?

The nations who inhabited the Promised Land were known as grossly immoral people who practiced idolatry with cultist fertility practices that included orgies, incest, adultery, bestiality, and child sacrifices. For four generations, God exhibited patience with the Amorites, even allowing Sihon an opportunity to be at peace with the Israelites (vv.26-29), but the king refused. The iniquities of the Amorites were filled up, and God’s justice was meted out.

- Discuss how sin and evil played into the historical outworking of the judgment of the Amorites. (cf. Genesis 15:16 and Romans 9:22-23.)
- Theologian and pastor John Murray once wrote, “Wrath is the holy revulsion of God’s being against that which is the contradiction of his holiness.”¹ How should a clearer understanding of God’s holiness and hatred toward sin impact our own attitude and actions?

Today’s church stands in a similar position to Old Testament Israel. We too are “strangers and exiles” as we look to a “homeland, a better country” (Hebrews 11:13-16). Trusting in God’s rule over kingdoms and nations, we are totally dependent on him for provision. But unlike Moses, our mediator was not forbidden from entering the heavenly country, because Christ ensured our entrance with his victory over the final enemies of sin and death (1 Cor. 15:57).



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DATE: August 7, 2022

SPEAKER: Wil/Aaron

SERIES: Deuteronomy

PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 2:24-3:11

Family Dinner Table

A Prayer about God Owning Our Battles

by *Scotty Smith*

“Dear heavenly Father, I love it when you’re selfish with things I don’t really want anyway—especially when you claim ownership of any battle into which you place us. Though, as your children, you call us into warfare and give us armor to wear (Eph. 6:10-18), it’s you we must trust as the Divine Warrior. You’re not a spectator to our conflicts, but a very present help and our great and living hope. Teach us how to do warfare this side of the finished work of Jesus.

Hallelujah! The gospel frees us from being both fretful activists and disengaged pacifists. Instead, we are to be fully engaged worshipers, beholding the salvation of the Lord...Whether it’s a mere skirmish or an all-out assault, the battle belongs to you. Fear and discouragement are not the order of the day; faith and peace are.

When we’re afraid of events in world history; when it seems like evil and terror will triumph, let us hear the laughter of heaven. Just give us a clearer vision of your already installed King, the Lord Jesus. Just give us an unobstructed view of the occupied throne of heaven, and it will shut up our fears (Psalm 2; Revelation 4).

When we’re under attack by the seducer, accuser, and condemner of the brethren, once again let us see Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. He is our wisdom, righteousness, holiness, and redemption (1 Cor. 1:30-31). We boast in Jesus, not in anything in ourselves.

When we’re in the presence of evil and very broken people, keep us sane and centered by the gospel. You are the consummate Peacemaker, reigning King and returning Bridegroom. In you we will trust. We relinquish our battles to you and follow you into this day. So very Amen we pray.”²

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

RUF at UTC, led by Rev. John Mark Scroggs, denominational partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Patsy and Craig, supported missionary partners who serve in Asia teaching English

¹Murray, John. The Epistle to the Romans. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 1968, p. 35

²Smith, Scotty. “A Prayer about God Owning Our Battles.” The Gospel Coalition, 29 May 2012, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/scotty-smith/a-prayer-about-god-owning-our-battles-2/>.