
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Chapter 1:1-18	Mosheh recounts the events at Horeb (Mt.Sinai)
Tuesday:	Chapter 1:19-46	Mosheh recounts the appointing of leaders and the rebellion of the 10 spies
Wednesday:	Chapter 2:1-23	Mosheh recounts Yahweh's past instructions to avoid conflict with Edomites, Mo'abites and Ammonites as they traveled
Thursday:	Chapter 2:24-37	Yisra'el defeats sovereign Sihon of the Amorites
Friday:	Chapter 3:1-22	Yisra'el defeats the giant sovereign Og of Bashan

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will take a look at some of the Yisra'elites' encounters with other nations during their 40-year journey in the wilderness. There were times when Yahweh instructs them to engage in battle with certain nations, and other times when they were instructed merely to pass by and stay clear of conflict, trusting in Yahweh's sovereignty, guidance and leadership on their way to the land of Kena'an. Now, let's read Deut. 2-3.

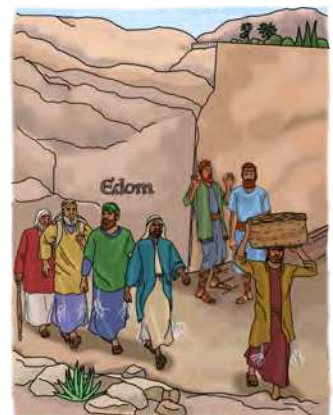
PARSHA POINTS

Chapter 2

- After the Yisra'elites had been in Qadesh Barnea (Chapter 1) for many days, they traveled from the Sea of Reeds towards the hill country of Se'ir, as Yahweh had commanded them - 2:1
- After traveling around Mount Se'ir for many days, Yahweh told them that they had gone around the mountain long enough and to turn northward - 2:2-3

Avoiding Conflict with the Edomites (Numbers 20:14-21)

- Yahweh instructed them to pass over into the border of the Edomites, the descendants (**bnei**) of Esaw, their relatives - 2:4
- Yahweh told them to be on guard because the Edomites were afraid of them - 2:4
- Yahweh told the Yisra'elites to avoid provoking the Edomites, as He would not give them any of the Edomites' land (**arsow**) - 2:5
- Yahweh told the Yisra'elites that He had given Mount Se'ir to Esaw as a possession (**yerushah**) - 2:5



- They were not to go ahead and gather food or water from the land, but to use silver to purchase from the inhabitants what provisions they needed. - 2:6
- Yahweh reminded them of all the blessings He had provided for them during the past 40 (**arba'im**) years, for they had not lacked any matter (hinting that He would continue to take care of them) - 2:7
- Formerly the Horites had dwelt in Se'ir, but Esaw had dispossessed them and now dwelt in their place, just as the Yisra'elites were dispossessing the inhabitants in the land of Kena'an that Yahweh was giving them - 2:12
- The Yisra'elites then passed through Edom and moved toward Mo'ab - 2:8



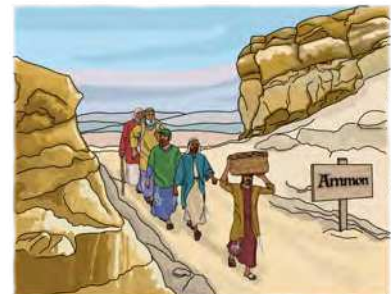
Avoiding Conflict with the Mo'abites (Numbers 21:12-15)

- Similarly to Edom, Yahweh instructed the Yisra'elites not to harass the Mo'abites or engage in battle with them, as He would not give them any of Mo'ab's land either - 2:9
- Yahweh told the Yisra'elites that He had given the place called Ar to the descendants of Lot (the Mo'abites) as a possession - 2:9
- Formerly the Emmites (a race of giants like the Anakim and the Rephaites) had dwelt in Ar, but were dispossessed by the Mo'abites - 2:10-11
- The Yisra'elites crossed the Wadi Zered, noting that 38 (**shloshim v'shmoneh**) years had passed since they left Qadesh Barnea, and all the warriors from the older generation (age 20 and up - Num. 32:11) had died - 2:13-16



Avoiding Conflict with the Ammonites

- Yahweh then instructed the Yisra'elites to move on, passing across Ar, the boundary of Mo'ab, and coming near to the territory of Ammon. They were to avoid conflict with the Ammonites (another group descended from Lot), for He would not give them any of the Ammonites' land - 2:17-19
- Yahweh told the Yisra'elites that He had given the children of Ammon, the descendants of Lot, the land of Ammon as a possession - 2:19
- Mosheh recalled the former inhabitants of that land as well - 2:20-23
- Later, after defeating Sihon, the sovereign of Heshbon, the Yisra'elites were told not to go near the land of Ammon as Yahweh had forbidden them - 2:37



The Complete Defeat of Sihon and the Amorites (Numbers 21:21-32, Yehoshua 12:2-3)

- Yahweh instructed the children of Yisra'el to pass over the wadi Arnon and to prepare for battle to defeat Sihon the Amorite sovereign (**melek**) of Heshbon and to possess his land - 2:24
- Yahweh encouraged the children of Yisra'el on their way to Kena'an, stating that all peoples would have a fear of them as they began to hear of their victories and conquests - 2:25



- Yahweh instructed them to first approach the sovereign Sihon diplomatically with words of peace, saying: (2:26-29)

- Let us pass through your land, staying on the highway and not entering into any towns, villages, etc...
- We will pay in silver for any food or water that we need.
- Let us pass through peaceably, on foot, as we did with the Edomites, Mo'abites and Ammonites



- But the sovereign hardened his spirit and strengthened his heart, and did not allow them to pass through - 2:30
- The Yisra'elites engaged in battle with them at Yahats and smote the sovereign and his sons - 2:33
- They took all the cities and smote the men, women and little ones, leaving no survivors - 2:34
- They took the livestock and the spoil of the cities as booty for themselves - 2:35



Chapter 3

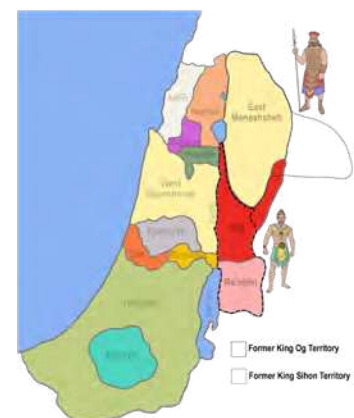
The Complete Defeat of Og and the Amorites (Numbers 21:33-35, Yehoshua 12:4-5)

- The Yisra'elites journeyed on to Bashan, where the sovereign Og of Bashan rose out against them at Ashtaroth in Edre'i - 3:1
- Yahweh encouraged them to engage in battle and not to fear, for they would be victorious, as they were in the battle with Sihon - 3:2-3
- The Yisra'elites engaged in battle and smote everyone, leaving no survivors - 3:3, 6
- They took all 60 (**shishim**) of the cities—ones that had high walls, gates and bars, as well as many unwalled towns - 3:4
- They took the livestock and the spoil of the cities as booty for themselves - 3:7
- The battle killed Og, who was the last remaining Repha'ite - 3:11
- Og's bed was described as an iron bed 9 (**tesha**) cubits in length (13 ½ feet long) and 4 (**arba**) cubits (6 feet wide) in width - 3:11



Division of the Conquered Lands (Yehoshua 13:7-32)

- The territories captured from the Amorite sovereigns, Sihon and Og, were divided among the tribes of Re'uben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Menashsheh with specific regions and boundaries detailed - 3:12-17
- Mosheh reminded the tribes of Re'uben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Menashsheh of their commitment to fight alongside their fellow Yisra'elites in capturing the land west of the Yarden - 3:18-20



- The women, children and livestock of these tribes would remain behind in their captured cities - 3:19
- After the land of Kena'an was possessed, the men of these tribes would be able to return across the Yarden to their families and possessions - 3:20; Yehoshua 22:1-9

Yehoshua's Leadership Affirmed

- Mosheh encouraged Yehoshua, telling him not to fear the upcoming battles because Yahweh would fight for Yisra'el, just as He did against the 2 (**shtayim**) Amorite kings - 3:21-22; Yehoshua 1:9
- Mosheh recalled his plea to Yahweh to let him enter the land of Kena'an, based on all the things he did for Yahweh - 3:23-24
- Yahweh became enraged with his request, telling him not to speak of it anymore - 3:25
- However, Yahweh allowed Mosheh to climb up to Pisgah, on the peak of Mount Nebo, to view the land from afar - 3:27
- Yahweh instructed Mosheh to encourage and strengthen Yehoshua and make him brave, for he would lead the children of Yisra'el into Kena'an - 3:28



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Why do you think Yahweh instructed the Yisra'elites to avoid conflict with certain nations on their way to Kena'an?
- How can we distinguish between battles we're meant to fight and those we should sidestep? Discuss the wisdom in recognizing the difference.
- Discuss how you can trust Yahweh and allow Him to lead and guide you, even when you don't understand or have fear.
- How does Chapter 2 emphasize the importance of patience in our journey with Yahweh?
- Recount the many times Yahweh protected and guided His people in their journeys.
- How can we cultivate a sense of trust in Yahweh's timing, even in periods of uncertainty?
- Research the origins of the Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites and Amorites. What can we learn from their past?
- Research the sovereigns Sihon and Og of the Amorites. Why do you think the details of the size of Og's bed is mentioned? What does the victory over Og signify about Yahweh's power?
- Why was the division of the land significant to the tribes of Yisra'el?
- How would you handle a disappointment similar to Mosheh not being allowed to enter the land of Kena'an? Discuss the feelings you would have not getting something you really wanted and thought you deserved.
- Why do you think Mosheh chose Yehoshua as the next leader? Factor in that Kaleb and Yehoshua were the only ones from age 20 and up who were told they would enter the land.