

# God Dealing With His People

Deuteronomy 2:1 Then we turned, and took our journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea, as the Lord spake unto me: and we compassed mount Seir many days. 2 And the Lord spake unto me, saying, 3 Ye have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward. 4 And command thou the people, saying, Ye are to pass through the coast of your brethren the children of Esau, which dwell in Seir; and they shall be afraid of you: take ye good heed unto yourselves therefore: 5 Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession. 6 Ye shall buy meat of them for money, that ye may eat; and ye shall also buy water of them for money, that ye may drink. 7 For the Lord thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the Lord thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing. 8 And when we passed by from our brethren the children of Esau, which dwelt in Seir, through the way of the plain from Elath, and from Ezion-gaber, we turned and passed by the way of the wilderness of Moab. 9 And the Lord said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give thee of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar unto the children of Lot for a possession. 10 The Emims dwelt therein in times past, a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; 11 Which also were accounted giants, as the Anakims; but the Moabites call them Emims. 12 The Horims also dwelt in Seir beforetime; but the children of Esau succeeded them, when they had destroyed them from before them, and dwelt in their stead; as Israel did unto the land of his possession, which the Lord gave unto them. 13 Now rise up, said I, and get you over the brook Zered. And we went over the brook Zered. 14 And the space in which we came from Kadesh-barnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the Lord sware unto them. 15 For indeed the hand of the Lord was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed. 16 So it came to pass, when all the men of war were consumed and dead from among the people, 17 That the Lord spake unto me, saying, 18 Thou art to pass over through Ar, the coast of Moab, this day: 19 And when thou comest nigh over against the children of Ammon, distress them not, nor meddle with them: for I will not give thee of the land of the children of Ammon any possession; because I have given it unto the children of Lot for a possession. 20 (That also was accounted a land of giants: giants dwelt therein in old time; and the Ammonites call them Zamzummims; 21 A people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; but the Lord destroyed them before them; and they succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead: 22 As he did to the children of Esau, which dwelt in Seir, when he destroyed the Horims from before them; and they succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead even unto this day: 23 And the Avims which dwelt in Hazerim, even unto Azzah, the Caphtorims, which came forth out of Caphtor, destroyed them, and dwelt in their stead.) 24 Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle. 25 This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee. 26 And I sent messengers out of the wilderness of Kedemoth unto Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying, 27 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. 28 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; 29 (As the children of Esau which dwell in Seir, and the Moabites which dwell in Ar, did unto me;) until I shall pass over Jordan into the land

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which the Lord our God giveth us. 30 But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the Lord thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day. 31 And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land before thee: begin to possess, that thou mayest inherit his land. 32 Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to fight at Jahaz. 33 And the Lord our God delivered him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people. 34 And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain: 35 Only the cattle we took for a prey unto ourselves, and the spoil of the cities which we took. 36 From Aroer, which is by the brink of the river of Arnon, and from the city that is by the river, even unto Gilead, there was not one city too strong for us: the Lord our God delivered all unto us: 37 Only unto the land of the children of Ammon thou camest not, nor unto any place of the river Jabbok, nor unto the cities in the mountains, nor unto whatsoever the Lord our God forbad us. 3:1 Then we turned, and went up the way to Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. 2 And the Lord said unto me, Fear him not: for I will deliver him, and all his people, and his land, into thy hand; and thou shalt do unto him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon. 3 So the Lord our God delivered into our hands Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people: and we smote him until none was left to him remaining. 4 And we took all his cities at that time, there was not a city which we took not from them, threescore cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. 5 All these cities were fenced with high walls, gates, and bars; beside unwalled towns a great many. 6 And we utterly destroyed them, as we did unto Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children, of every city. 7 But all the cattle, and the spoil of the cities, we took for a prey to ourselves. 8 And we took at that time out of the hand of the two kings of the Amorites the land that was on this side Jordan, from the river of Arnon unto mount Hermon; 9 (Which Hermon the Sidonians call Sirion; and the Amorites call it Shenir;) 10 All the cities of the plain, and all Gilead, and all Bashan, unto Salchah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan. 11 For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man. 12 And this land, which we possessed at that time, from Aroer, which is by the river Arnon, and half mount Gilead, and the cities thereof, gave I unto the Reubenites and to the Gadites. 13 And the rest of Gilead, and all Bashan, being the kingdom of Og, gave I unto the half tribe of Manasseh; all the region of Argob, with all Bashan, which was called the land of giants. 14 Jair the son of Manasseh took all the country of Argob unto the coasts of Geshuri and Maachathi; and called them after his own name, Bashan-havoth-jair, unto this day. 15 And I gave Gilead unto Machir. 16 And unto the Reubenites and unto the Gadites I gave from Gilead even unto the river Arnon half the valley, and the border even unto the river Jabbok, which is the border of the children of Ammon; 17 The plain also, and Jordan, and the coast thereof, from Chinnereth even unto the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, under Ashdoth-pisgah eastward. 18 And I commanded you at that time, saying, The Lord your God hath given you this land to possess it: ye shall pass over armed before your brethren the children of Israel, all that are meet for the war. 19 But your wives, and your little ones, and your cattle, (for I know that ye have much cattle,) shall abide in your cities which I have given you; 20 Until the Lord have given rest unto your brethren, as well as unto you, and until they also possess the land which the Lord your God hath given them beyond Jordan: and then shall ye return every man unto his possession, which I have given you. 21 And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, Thine

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eyes have seen all that the Lord your God hath done unto these two kings: so shall the Lord do unto all the kingdoms whither thou passest. 22 Ye shall not fear them: for the Lord your God he shall fight for you. 23 And I besought the Lord at that time, saying, 24 O Lord God, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might? 25 I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon. 26 But the Lord was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the Lord said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter. 27 Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan. 28 But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see. 29 So we abode in the valley over against Beth-peor.

- We do not know much of what happened in the wilderness
  - All the time that they are in the wilderness God is not pleased
  - There is no record of them observing the Passover or even circumcising their sons
  - All of that will happen on the other side of the river in Joshua 5
  - The oldest people except for Caleb and Joshua would be 57 or 58. They were 19 back when their parents sinned against God
1. God guides His people through His Word 2:1 Then we turned, and took our journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea, as the Lord spake unto me: and we compassed mount Seir many days. 2 And the Lord spake unto me, saying,
    - a. God spoke. That is how they knew what to do
    - b. Today God doesn't speak to us like that
    - c. He speaks through His Word. Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
    - d. God does work on your heart. He can direct your path but He will always speak like His Word
    - e. He will never contradict His Word
    - f. Too many people say that God told them things when He didn't
    - g. Be careful when you speak of God talking to you
    - h. In the Bible if a prophet said that God told him something and it didn't come true then he had to be put to death
  2. God keeps His Word to His people and everyone else for that matter 5 Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession. 9 And the Lord said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with

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them in battle: for I will not give thee of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar unto the children of Lot for a possession. 19 And when thou comest nigh over against the children of Ammon, distress them not, nor meddle with them: for I will not give thee of the land of the children of Ammon any possession; because I have given it unto the children of Lot for a possession.

- a. These are great verses. God said that He would not give the land to Israel because He had already given it to someone else
  - b. That means that God doesn't go back on His promises
  - c. That means you will be able to trust that He will keep His promises to you
  - d. If He was this good to Esau and Lot I suppose He will keep His Word to Israel
  - e. If He will break His Word to them then He will to us but that is impossible
    - i. He can't lie Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;
    - ii. He can't deny Himself II Timothy 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.
    - iii. God is not like a man Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; Neither the son of man, that he should repent: Hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?
    - iv. It is impossible for God to lie Hebrews 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:
  - f. You can trust that God will keep His Word so when you read the Bible you can believe what you read. Just make sure you are understanding it
  - g. So get into your Bible and learn what it says. It is alive and it is true
3. God is good to His people even when disobey 7 For the Lord thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the Lord thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.
- a. They have been in the wilderness now for 38 years
  - b. God has met every need.
    - i. They have had water given to them miraculously
    - ii. They have gotten food the same way
    - iii. They have been directed by the cloud and the pillar
    - iv. They have been protected from their enemies
    - v. They have learned to fight and win
  - c. All of this time God has been waiting on the older generation to die out 14 And the space in which we came from Kadesh-barnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the Lord sware unto them.
  - d. God was disciplining them. 15 For indeed the hand of the Lord was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed.

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- i. Even though He loved them and did all that He did for them they suffered the consequences of their rebellion
  - ii. God's plan for your life is bigger than just wilderness wandering
  - iii. Why would you choose your will over His and then you and your children have to suffer the consequences
  - e. God's character is that He is good even when we are bad
  - f. But can you not see the foolishness of doing your own thing and missing out on what God has for you
  - g. If they would simply have obeyed they would have experienced all that God had for them
  - h. Apparently you can miss God's best for your life
    - i. Be careful to marry the right person
    - ii. Be careful to obey God and not do what you might think is best above what the Word of God clearly says
    - iii. Do not let your lack of faith or fear keep you from enjoying God's best
    - iv. Remember that your children will reap the benefits or failures of your life and ministry
    - v. Though God is good it is not wise to tempt Him by doing your own thing
4. It is the Lord God that gives His people victory 36 From Aroer, which is by the brink of the river of Arnon, and from the city that is by the river, even unto Gilead, there was not one city too strong for us: the Lord our God delivered all unto us:
- a. It was the Lord that delivered them
  - b. Notice how many times it says that He gave
  - c. He began to give
  - d. Nothing was too hard
  - e. It is the promised land and just like He said from the very beginning He will give it to them
  - f. He will drive out their enemies
  - g. It is up to them to get up and step out by faith
    - i. Remember that the Red Sea nor the Jordan River opened until the men of God got their feet wet
    - ii. It takes us getting up and doing our part
    - iii. God will give us the land but we will still have to go out and fight
    - iv. Real faith means that we do what He has told us to do before we see Him do what He promised to do
  - h. Remember the giants that they worried about and see how God gives the victory 11 For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man.
    - i. It is a two sided thing always I Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.
      - i. God's power working-His grace

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- ii. Us working on our side
5. Why would God destroy these nations? 25 This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.
- a. These were not innocent nations
    - i. They sacrificed their children to their gods
    - ii. They had male and female prostitutes that served in their temples
    - iii. Sexual intercourse was an important part of their religion
  - b. We know that these people knew about God
    - i. From the creation Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:
    - ii. They have a conscience Romans 2:14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) 16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.
  - c. They had seen and known Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as they lived and worshipped their God
  - d. They surely knew about God destroying Sodom and Gomorrah
  - e. They had heard of the plagues in Egypt and how God delivered His people through the Red Sea
    - i. We know that Rahab the harlot knew
    - ii. We know that in this passage God sent His fear before them 25 This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.
    - iii. There are plenty of Bible stories that show us of others that knew about God but they reject Him always
      - 1. Think of later stories as David defeats Goliath so that all may know
      - 2. Think of Dagon falling before the ark
      - 3. Think of the Philistines sending the ark back
      - 4. Think of the jailer and Pharaoh themselves understanding that there is no God like God
  - f. These pagan nations would have caused even more temptation if they had been left in place
    - i. God's people often look to falsehood and find it
    - ii. The physical and prideful part of these false religions can be appealing
  - g. For you these nations would represent sin and things that cry out for you to sin against God
    - i. That could be whatever you have that pushes you towards pornography
    - ii. It would be some boundaries that you would put in your life to avoid sin
    - iii. It would be the people, places, and things that might cause you to fall

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6. God wants His people to finish the work He sends them to do 20 Until the Lord have given rest unto your brethren, as well as unto you, and until they also possess the land which the Lord your God hath given them beyond Jordan: and then shall ye return every man unto his possession, which I have given you.
  - a. 2 1/2 tribes chose to take land on the other side of Jordan
    - i. It was not part of the promised land
    - ii. They had gotten what they wanted but would spend years separated from their families
    - iii. Something like 7 years of battle while their children grew up and their wives had to take care of the family
    - iv. No joint experiences, no growing in the Lord together, etc
  - b. They were to go and fight until their brothers possessed the land
  - c. God was going to give them rest when their brothers got rest
  - d. Rest comes after the battle, after the work, and not before
  - e. If you consider that God has a plan for your life then you might consider getting in and doing His will for your life
  - f. The word “until” is the big word in the sentence
  - g. So finish what you start
  - h. Do not be a quitter
  - i. Don't get tired because you don't get what you want quickly enough
  
7. God wants His people to encourage the next leaders 28 But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see.
  - a. Moses wanted one more chance to go into the promise land
    - i. He reminds God that He is seeing His goodness and sure enjoying it 24 O Lord God, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might?
    - ii. He asks one more time if he can go into the promised land 25 I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon.
    - iii. God was tired of being asked. His mind was made up 26 But the Lord was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the Lord said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter.
    - iv. He gave Moses the opportunity to take one good look and that was it 27 Get thee up into the top of Pisgah, and lift up thine eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold it with thine eyes: for thou shalt not go over this Jordan.
  - b. God wanted Moses to charge Joshua
    - i. Teach and challenge Joshua on how to lead the nation, His home
    - ii. Teach Joshua how to walk with God
    - iii. Challenge him not to forget to honor and obey God
    - iv. Tell him not to make the same mistakes that Moses had made
    - v. Challenge him to stand on truth when the crowd would go against him

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- c. He wanted Moses to encourage Him and strengthen him
    - i. He needed to help Joshua understand that God was going to use him
    - ii. He needed to know that no matter how scary the job seemed that God was bigger
    - iii. He needed to be reminded to keep his eyes on Jesus
    - iv. He needed to be reminded to spend time with God
    - v. He needed to be reminded to control his thought life
  - d. God was promising that Joshua would be successful even before he started out
    - i. The land was already promised
    - ii. God had already proven Himself
    - iii. Joshua was a success before he ever got started
  - e. Help those that follow you be a success in the ministry that God has for them
  - f. Help them learn from your mistakes
  - g. Encourage them about how good God has been
  - h. Help them think the right thoughts so that Satan doesn't get an advantage over them
- 
- Remind that we move and act on God's Word
  - We do not go on whims or emotions
  - We know that to say God says something we need a Bible basis that anyone can see
  - We need to remember that God keeps His Word
  - If the Bible is that precious and proven then we need to study it diligently
  - We want to remind people of what a wonderful God we serve
  - Help them understand that God loves them and will continue to love them but that they can miss God's best for their life
  - It would be foolish to have God being good when it wasn't all the wonderful things that He had planned
  - It is always God that gives the victory
  - We will work and fight but we never forget that God and His grace are what make ministry and success possible
  - Remember that people do go to Hell. We want to be careful to get the gospel to the world
  - Remember the importance of finishing what you start
  - Help the next generation be successful and do more for God than we have been able to do

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**Vision Baptist Church** is an independent Baptist church pastored by Austin Gardner. We are located in Alpharetta, GA, in the southern end of Forsyth County.

We are a missions-minded church with a goal of fully honoring God and helping families draw closer to Him.

You will feel welcome and loved, and you will receive a wonderful blessing from God's Word when you visit Vision Baptist Church.

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