

**Torah:** D/varim (Deuteronomy) 1:1 – 3:22  
**Haftarah:** Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 1:1-27  
**B'rit Hadashah:** Yochanan (John) 15:1-11

	yr. 1 1:1-2:1	yr. 2 2:2-30	yr. 3 2:31-3:22
1	1:1 – 3	<b>2:2 – 5</b>	2:31 – 34
2	1:4 – 7	<b>2:6 – 12</b>	2:35 – 37
3	1:8 – 10	<b>2:13 – 16</b>	3:1 – 3
4	1:11 – 21	<b>2:17 – 19</b>	3:4 – 7
5	1:22 – 28	<b>2:20 – 22</b>	3:8 – 11
6	1:29 – 38	<b>2:23 – 25</b>	3:12 – 14
7	1:39 – 2:1	<b>2:26 – 30</b>	3:15 – 22

And HaShem spoke to me saying enough of you - going around this mountain / turn for yourself northward	<i>va'yómer ADONÁI elay le'mor rav-lakém sov et-ha'har hazeh pe'neu lakém tzafónah</i>	וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלַי לֵאמֹר: רַב-לְכֶם סָב אֶת-הַהָר הַזֶּה פְּנֵי לְכֶם צָפוֹנָה:
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This is the first parshah of the Book of D'varim (דְּבָרִים), known in English as Deuteronomy. It begins with Moshe's words to the children of Israel at the border of the Promised Land, giving a summary of the 40-year journey that brought them to that point. All the adults who were present at the beginning of that journey are no longer alive, so these words are for, and to their children, now the adults, who were not born or were very young when this story began.

The haftarah is the 3<sup>rd</sup> and last Admonition before the fast of *Tisha B'Av* (the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av), which recalls the many tragedies that the Jewish people have suffered. Isaiah describes the people as rebellious and doers of evil, connecting the destroyed state of their land to their behavior. Sacrifices and offerings will not put everything right. The people must change their ways, do good, and act justly toward the oppressed, the widow and the orphan.

**Year 2 Aliyah Highlights**

- De. 2:2-5** The time has come. A northward march through Se'ir is commanded. HaShem has given that land to the descendants of 'Esav, Ya'aqov's brother. They were seminomadic and they have taken possession of the land. That land is clearly off limits to Israel.
- De. 2:6-12** This is clearly after 40 years of prosperous travel (v.7). The next stage of the march passes through the land of Mo'av. A short history of the inhabitants shows the faithfulness of HaShem to grant victory to those inhabitants, just as he will to Israel.
- De. 2:13-16** The generation of the Exodus have all perished (*tamam* – תָּמַם – to be complete) – stated three times. The conquest now begins with the generation that would enter the promised land. After 38 years, the HaShem's plan continues.
- De. 2:17-19** The Ammonites were descendants of Lot, who were given their territory by HaShem
- De. 2:20-22** Again, confirmation of HaShem's plan for all nations.
- De. 2:23-25** The command at which the previous generation rebelled, is now obeyed without hesitation.
- De. 2:26-30** Negotiations with Sichon are likened to those with Pharaoh in Egypt. HaShem "strengthens" hearts that are already hard.

**Thought Focus**

**"They will be afraid of you."** Israel is now a huge population with lots of cattle/flocks (Nu. 22:3-4). They are intimidating. Moshe had previously assured the king of Edom and Sihon that they were not a threat

(Nu. 20:17, 21:22). But they were also terrified by what HaShem did to Egypt 40 years ago (Ex. 15:14-16). HaShem makes it clear that he has given 'Esav's descendants their land just as he is about to give Israel theirs (De. 32:8, Amos 9:7, Ge. 17:20, 25:23). This reflects the concept that God is sovereign over all nations – he parcels out land to each nation. Israel's historical struggle with Edom/'Esav was a spiritual one due to their different purposes. Perhaps international/interpersonal tensions would ease if we could discover our true purpose, and help others find theirs.

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**Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application**

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1. (1:6) What has God entrusted to you? Is it time to share it with others? (Deu 7:7-9, Rom 11:29, Rom 3:1-2, Rom 9:3-5, Mat 28:19-20, 2Co 4:6-7)
2. (1:12) How do you view "God's people?" Are you willing to work through the "muck" to reap a great harvest? It can only be done as a team! (Pro 14:4, Luk 17:1, Eph 4:11-13, 1Co 12:12-31, 1Ki 19:14-18)
3. (1:22) Do you follow the crowd, or do you listen for God's still, small voice among the clamor of those around you? (1Sa 8:4-7, Joh 6:14-15, Mat 26:47, 1Ki 19:11-13, Zec 4:6)
4. (1:39) Too much knowledge and information can muddy the waters of a simple choice between good and evil. Are you making the right choices today? (Deu 30:15-19, Jer 2:34-35, 1Jo 1:6, Jam 4:17, Joh 9:39-41)
5. (2:3) God told the people twice to enter the land - the second time almost 40 years after the first time! Is "now" the time for a decision to move on in your spiritual life? (Deu 1:6-7, Deu 2:2-4, Isa 50:5-7, Luk 9:51, Luk 9:62)
6. (2:31) God is always preparing the way ahead of us. Do you see what he has begun for you so that you can move on in Him? (Deu 2:25, Jos 2:9-11, Luk 17:21, Heb 11:1, Joh 4:35, Phil 1:6, 2Th 1:11, Hab 2:14, 2Ki 6:15-17, Phil 1:9-11)
7. (3:18) God's purposes go far beyond our individual world. Has He revealed your greater role in His Kingdom? Have you asked Him about this? (Gen 15:16, Lev 18:25, Ecc 3:11, Gal 5:1, Joh 20:31, Luk 9:22, Act 2:23, Mat 10:29-31, Deu 32:4, Rom 1:18-20, Isa 43:1-2)