

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

and HaShem said to me, see! / I have begun to give before you / Sikhon and his land / begin to take possession – to possess his land	<i>va'yómer ADONÁI elay re'eh ha'khilotiy tet le'fanéykha et-Siykhon ve'et-ar'tzo hakhél rash la'réshet et-ar'tzo</i>	וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלַי רְאֵה הַחִלֹּתִי תֵּת לְפָנֶיךָ אֶת-סִיחֹן וְאֶת-אַרְצוֹ הָחֵל רָשׁ לְרֵשֶׁת אֶת-אַרְצוֹ:
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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. Almost all of 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 3rd and last Admonition before the fast of *Tisha B'Av* (the 9th 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.

Aliyah Highlights

- De. 2:31-34** Vs. 31 is a recapitulation of 24-25. HaShem orders the attack, encourages and promises victory. Israel obeys completely, conquering the enemy – both land and people – in total defeat leaving no survivors. Their obedience contrasts the previous generation's disobedience and doubt (De. 1:27). This victory was not "miraculous." The success of the human military action (physical/visual) was due to the hand of HaShem (spiritual/invisible) (Ps. 127:1).
- De. 2:35-37** Success is attributed to HaShem "giving" (*natan* – נָתַן) it to the Israelites, not finding the cities "inaccessible" (*sag-vah* – שָׁגִבָה). Obedience included respecting HaShem's orders that protected specific land and people (v. 37).
- De. 3:1-3** Victory over *Og/Bashan* is like a sequel to *Sichon/Emori*. The promise of victory and encouragement not to be afraid (a consistent theme for 40 years – 1:21, 29) resulted in Israel's success. The new generation has grown up.
- De. 3:4-7** This time, many of the cities were more fortified, a reminder of the original report of the "spies" (1:28) Yet Israel stepped up their game in growing confidence. The land has been fruitful for its inhabitants.
- De. 3:8-11** A summary of the above, and a note of recognition (13.5' x 6' bed!) to the accuracy of the report of the "spies." Fear was a valid response, but the power of the promise was greater.
- De. 3:12-14** This land was apportioned to Re'uven, Gad and M'nasheh.
- De. 3:15-22** Machir was grandson to Yosef (Nu. 32:39). The promise of the land is repeated, as is the commitment of these tribes, now given their land, to be vanguard for the tribes crossing the Yarden. This experience of fulfillment now becomes encouragement to Y'hoshua for what is to follow: fear not!

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. (There is plenty to go around!)

Sixty: The number of cities (60 – *shishim*) is likely rounded and symbolic. Though not emphasized in gematria (*samekh* – ס), it can represent a milestone (age) and the concept of support (Ps. 145:14).

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)