

“Words”

Pray First

Father God,

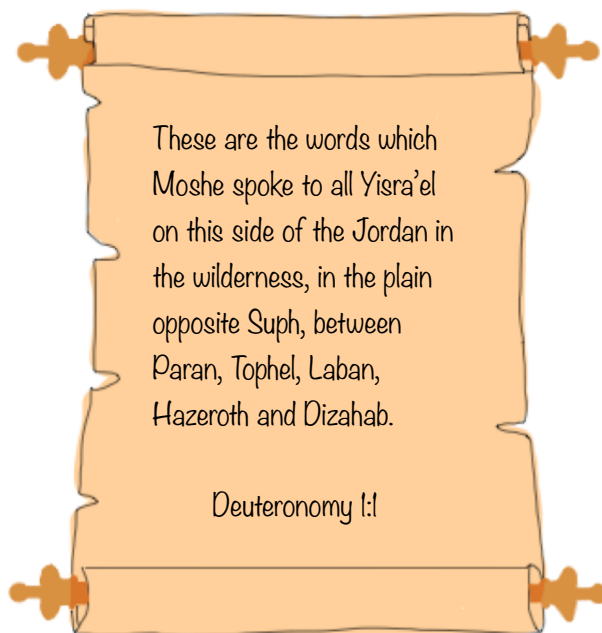
You are the Giver and Sustainer of all life. We thank You for blessing us and for disciplining us. Please increase our faith in You! Give us thankful minds that understand that obedience to Your Word results in protection and provision for us.

Please guide us to appoint leaders who are aware of these truths and are committed to lead us by following them. Please forgive us when we forget Who You are, what You have done and what You are coming back to do. Lead us to humbly repent of our sins against You so that our families, our nations and our land might be healed.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Next Read

Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22



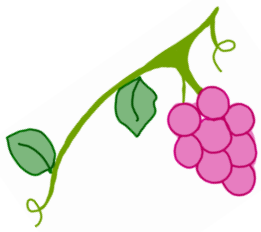
These are the words which Moshe spoke to all Yisra'el on this side of the Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain opposite Suph, between Paran, Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth and Dizahab.

Deuteronomy 1:1

In this week's Parasha the Children of Yisra'el had wandered in the wilderness for thirty-nine years and eleven months. All the men who were counted in the first census for war had died in the wilderness because they did not believe God would defeat their enemies and deliver them safely into the Land of Promise.

On the first day of the eleventh month Moshe (Moses) spoke to the next generation of the Children of Yisra'el while they were camped in the plains of Moab. Moshe began by

explaining to the congregation that their father's problems, burdens and complaints had been too much for him to bear alone. For this reason he had instructed them to choose wise, understanding and knowledgeable men from among their tribes to be heads and leaders over them. He reviewed how God had judged this leadership along with their fathers in response to their lack of trust and faith in Him when He commanded them to go in and possess the Land of Promise from Kadesh Barnea. He also explained God's commandments, regarding how they should interact with their relatives the Edomites, Moabites and Ammonites. These nations lived on land God had given their forefathers that is adjacent to the land of Yisra'el. Finally, Moshe explained how God had begun to put the dread and fear of them upon all the nations of the world by totally delivering their enemies into their hand. They had fought against and defeated Sihon the Amorite, King of Heshbon, and Og, King of Bashan. All the land of these kingdoms was given to the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the one-half tribe of Manasseh as a possession in exchange for their men becoming the armed forces of the Children of Yisra'el.



Focus Passage of Scripture



Deuteronomy 1:29-45

In our focus passage of Scripture Moshe recounted the events that took place the first time the Children of Yisra'el were in Kadesh Barnea less than one and one-half years after they were redeemed from bondage out of Egypt. God had led them from Mount Sinai through the wilderness to the mountain of the Amorites, and at Kadesh Moshe had commanded them to go into the land and take possession of it because the LORD God had given it into their hand.

All the leaders of the people came to Moshe, requesting that spies be sent into the land beforehand to search it out and bring back information regarding the best way to enter and into which cities they should go. Moshe was pleased with this request and sent twelve men, one from each tribe of Yisra'el into the land as spies.

The twelve spies returned forty days later with fruit from the land, and two of them gave a good report. They reported it was a good land and trusted that the LORD God would give it to them. However, the people would not go up! They rebelled against the command of the LORD God. They complained in their tents and spoke lies about the LORD and His plans for them.

In Deuteronomy 1:29-33 we learn that Moshe encouraged the Children of Yisra'el, telling them not to be terrified or afraid of the Amorites because the LORD God Who delivered them from bondage in Egypt would go before them and fight for them with His mighty power they had witnessed at their redemption. He would carry them so that they had no need for anything just as He had done as they traveled in the wilderness. He had led them by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire during the night to a place He prepared for them to pitch their tents. Despite all the miraculous wonders they had witnessed, they did not believe the LORD God



In Deuteronomy 1:34-36 Moshe told the congregation that the LORD heard the sound of their **WORDS**, and He was angry! He took an oath, saying that not one of the men of this evil generation would live to see the good land which He had sworn to give their fathers Avraham (Abraham), Yitzchak (Isaac) and Ya'kov (Jacob). Only Kalev (Caleb) the son of Jephunneh would be allowed to see it. He and his children would be given the land on which he had walked when he went up as a spy into the land because he had returned with a good report, trusting completely in the LORD to deliver them.

When Moshe spoke these words to next generation, he knew that he would not be allowed to enter the Land of Promise. Earlier that year at the time of his sister Miriam's death, the rock that had followed them in the wilderness no longer gave its water. God commanded Moshe and Aharon (Aaron) to take Aharon's rod and gather the assembly together before the rock. He instructed Moshe to speak to the rock before all the assembly, and it would again yield

its water. In this new way they would bring water for the Children of Yisra'el out of the rock, so the people and the animals would live and not die in the wilderness. Moshe gathered the assembly before the rock as commanded, but instead of speaking to the rock he struck it twice with the rod. Moshe disobeyed God and failed to honor Him in the eyes of the Children of Yisra'el.



In Deuteronomy 1:37-38 Moshe stated that due to his disobedience the LORD was angry with him for the sake of the people, saying that even Moshe himself would not go into the land. Yehoshua (Joshua), the other spy who had delivered a good report, fully believed that God would defeat all opposition to His Will, and because of his faith in God he was appointed to lead the people into the land to inherit it.

Moshe failed to believe God just as the people and the leaders of the congregation had done approximately thirty-eight years earlier. Moshe was influenced by the complaints and demands of the people, causing him to lack faith in God. His lack of faith resulted in his disobedience to God. Perhaps he felt it was necessary to demonstrate his own power and authority to the next generation of Yisra'elites in order to lead them into the land. No matter the cause for temptation the result was the same. Moshe would not be allowed to bring the Children of Yisra'el into the Promised Land. A leader who willfully disobeys God in the sight of His people lacks humility and is acting in pride.

Disobedience to God is always due to a lack of faith in His Word. Whenever we disobey God, He will judge us according to His standards. Disobedience to the Word of God does not lead to blessings. It leads to curses.

In Deuteronomy 1:39-41 Moshe explained to the children of those who rebelled against God at Kadesh Barnea that they would not be victims in the land as their parents feared, but they would possess the land of Yisra'el after the death of their parents. God did not allow their parents to enter the land and commanded them to turn around and take their journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea. Once again, their parents rebelled against the Word of God and went up to fight the Amorites. Moshe warned them not to go because the LORD would not go with them. Despite the LORD's command, they presumptuously went up into the mountain of the Amorites and were chased like bees out of the land. As they returned in defeat, they wept before the LORD, but He refused to listen to their cries.

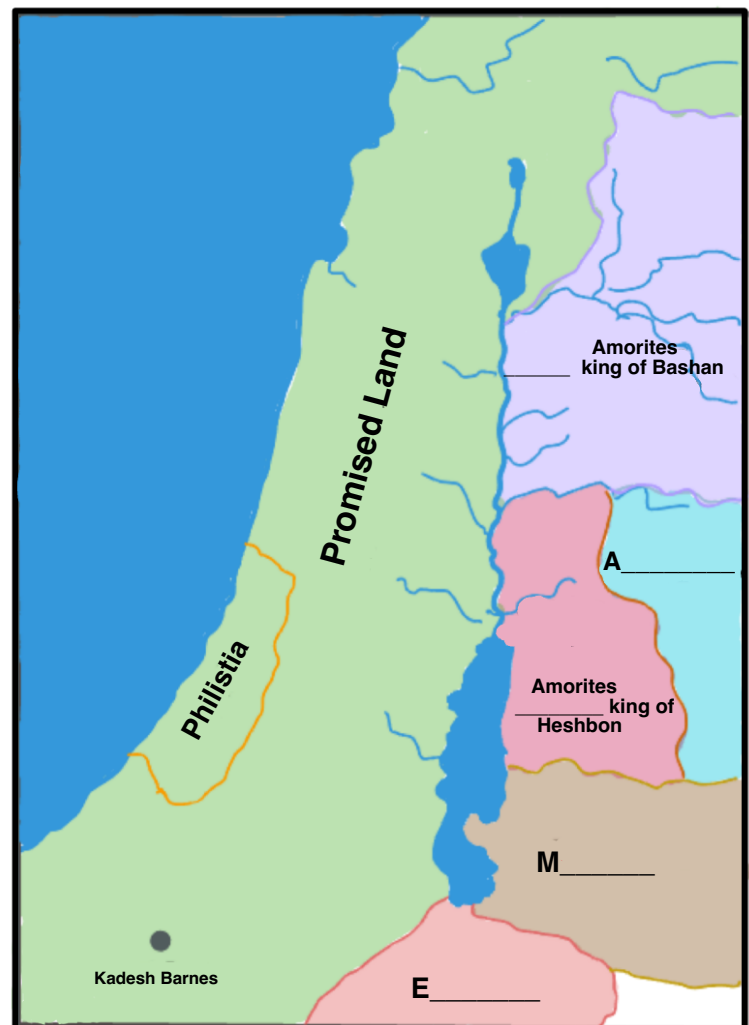


Map Quest

Directions: Label the map to include the three territories God did not allow the Yisra'elites to enter and the two kingdoms God delivered into their hand on the eastern side of the Jordan River (Deuteronomy 2:1-3:22)

(Clues and interesting facts)

1. God gave this territory to Esav (Esau) the twin brother of Ya'kov. Esav despised the purposes of God and sold his birthright for a bowl of red stew (Genesis 25:30). His descendants lived in the territory called by that name. This territory is also referred to as Seir in the Scriptures. When Yeshua returns to the earth, He will totally destroy this nation because they refused to allow their brethren, the Children of Yisra'el, to pass through their land. (Obadiah 1:1-21)
2. God gave this territory to the descendants of Lot's son by his firstborn daughter. Lot was Abraham's Nephew (Genesis 19:30-37).
3. God gave this territory to the descendants of Lot's son by his youngest daughter (Genesis 19:38).
4. When the Yisra'elites defeated this king, they were careful not to go near their relative's land that was adjacent to him on the eastern side (Deuteronomy 2:31-37).
5. When the Yisra'elites defeated this king, he was the only one who remained of the remnant of the giants. His bed was made of iron and measured approximately thirteen and one-half feet long by six feet wide (Deuteronomy 3:1-11)!



The tribes of Reuben, Gad and the one-half tribe of Manasseh were given the land conquered from the Amorites. In exchange they would become the armed forces of the Children of Yisra'el. Read Deuteronomy 3:12-20 to determine which territory was given to each of these three tribes.

Haftarah

Isaiah 1:1-27



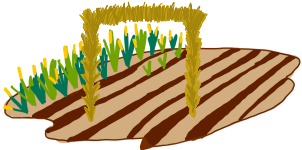
Yeshayahu (Isaiah) was a prophet of God who spent most of his life in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem), speaking the Words of God to four kings over a period of approximately sixty-five years. In this week's Haftarah Yeshayahu spoke concerning a vision God had given him about the Southern Kingdom of Judah and Yerushalayim where the presence of God dwelt in a unique way.

God had delivered the next generation of the Children of Yisra'el into the land just as He had promised. He had exalted them as His chosen people in the Promised Land. However, in the days of Yeshayahu the Yisra'elites had rebelled against God as if they did not know Him. They were rebelling against God just as their ancestors had done at Kadesh Barnea when they refused to obey God and go into the land.

In the days of Yeshayahu the Yisra'elites living in the land had become a sinful nation. They were full of evil, corruption and were constantly violating the laws of God. They did not trust in the LORD nor did they obey His Word. They did not recognize God's authority over them nor were they interested in knowing Him. They left the Holy One of Yisra'el and turned backward from the LORD.

As a result of their defiant behavior, they were not being blessed by God. They were like a sore on the body that had not been treated to help it heal. This was similar to God's judgement to their ancestors who would not be allowed to enter the Land of Promise and would all die in the wilderness within forty years.

God removed His hand of protection over His chosen people in the land, making it desolate and burned with fire. God allowed foreigners to attack them because they had abandoned Him. They had become like a sukkah (booth) that had been left in the field because it no longer served a purpose. If God had not preserved a remnant within the nation, they would have been completely destroyed just like Sodom and Gomorrah. (Genesis 19).



In the Yisra'elites' sinful state they continued performing acts of worship by bringing offerings and sacrifices to the Temple in Yerushalayim. This worship was not acceptable to God because He knew it was out of a sense of obligation and was not being offered to Him with thankfulness and love. These offerings and sacrifices were an insult to God because the people remained sinful and unchanged.

God was weary of responding to the people when they appeared before Him. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, the calling of assemblies and the Appointed Days He had grown to hate because these sacred meetings had been joined with sin for a very long time. The Children of Yisra'el had mistaken God's patience for His approval, and they were blind to the fact that their lack of fearing God was the source of their troubles.

Through the prophet Yeshayahu God told His people that He had had enough! No longer would He respond to them. He would hide His eyes from them, and He would not hear them even when they said many prayers to Him because their hands were full of blood.

God admonished the people, commanding them to repent and wash themselves to become pure. He commanded them to stop sinning against Him by their evil deeds. He commanded them to learn to do good and to seek justice. He commanded them to stop oppressing others, start defending orphans and start helping the widows.

God first extended His grace and mercy to His people, inviting them to arrive at the truth of His character. He told them of His wonderful forgiveness, available for the humble and repentant sinner, explaining that although their sins were like scarlet they could be made white as snow. That which is unholy can become holy by the power of God.

To repent of sin one must know the Word of God and agree with it. Anyone who is willing to listen to God, hearing Him through His Word with the intent to respond in obedience to Him, will be blessed by Him. However, in contrast anyone who rebels against the Word of God, refusing to listen with the intent of obediently responding, will be devoured by the sword.

God then turned His attention toward the leadership of Yisra'el and asked them how the city of Yerushalayim, where His presence dwelt, had become idolatrous. This happened because the leadership had become prideful, neglecting to obey God's commands in the sight of the people. Their disobedience had made them incapable of humbly leading the people according to God's Word. Remember when Moshe struck the rock twice instead of speaking to it? When leadership willfully disobeys God in the sight of His people they are acting in pride which is a form of spiritual idolatry.

In the days of Yeshayahu the leaders in Yerushalayim were not interested in justice. They were only interested in one thing: receiving money for themselves. They were not defending the fatherless, nor were they caring for widows. All these sins against God they committed perpetually! When a leader continually commits the same sin, it results in a hardened heart which leads to destruction. Do you recall this is what happened to Pharaoh?

The LORD God of Hosts, the Mighty One of Yisra'el, does not lie. He does not change His mind. What He has spoken will come to pass. He swore an oath to Avraham, stating that his descendants would inherit the Land of Yisra'el and that the whole world would be blessed through him. These promises were passed down from generation to generation and remain in affect today. Despite the faithlessness of the people and despite the disobedience of the leadership, the LORD God of Hosts, the Mighty One of Yisra'el, will act in a way to bring a new status in His land among His people, bringing comfort to Himself. He will take vengeance on His enemies to manifest His righteousness. He will purify His people from all their iniquities. He will restore their judges and counselors as in the beginning. After He has done all these things, the city of Yerushalayim (Zion) will be called faithful and righteous in the Kingdom state at the end of days.

New Testament

1 Timothy 2:1-8,3:1-7



Our New Testament passages of Scripture are taken from a letter the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, a young preacher leading the congregation of believers in the town of Ephesus. The Apostle Paul who was a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin, a former Pharisee and persecutor of believers in Yeshua, knew the importance of God's Word in the Holy Scriptures.

Paul was well aware of what Moshe endured as he was subjected to the problems, complaining and burdens of the Children of Yisra'el on a daily basis in the wilderness. He was aware that over time this influenced Moshe in a negative way and tempted him to disobey God, disqualifying him to lead the Children of Yisra'el into the Promised Land.

Paul's instructions in his letter to Timothy are based on the wisdom and knowledge revealed to him by the Holy Spirit as he studied the Word of God. In 1 Timothy 2:1-8 Paul spoke of the importance for all men to pray continually for each other. He explained that prayer for others should be offered to God humbly, knowing that He alone can hear and respond perfectly according to every need. Praying with this belief leads one to be thankful that God loves us, cares for us and gives us just what is needed in all circumstances, according to His perfect will for His creation.

Praying daily by this standard eliminates the desire to complain and grumble about our worldly circumstances. It allows us to appoint leaders who are committed to leading us in the truths of God. When we act in this manner, praying for our leaders, they are less tempted to disobey God because we are a witness and encouragement to them. They are less likely to succumb to evil by demonstrating their judgment and authority over the commands of God.

Paul continued to explain that there is only One God and One Mediator between God and men, the Man Messiah Yeshua. Because Messiah Yeshua gave His life in payment for all the sins of the world, whoever believes in His Name and trusts in His work of redemption has received the gift of the Holy Spirit within them, connecting them with God the Father. When we pray in thanksgiving during all circumstances instead of complaining and grumbling, we submit our being to the will of the Father, and His glory can be manifested through us.

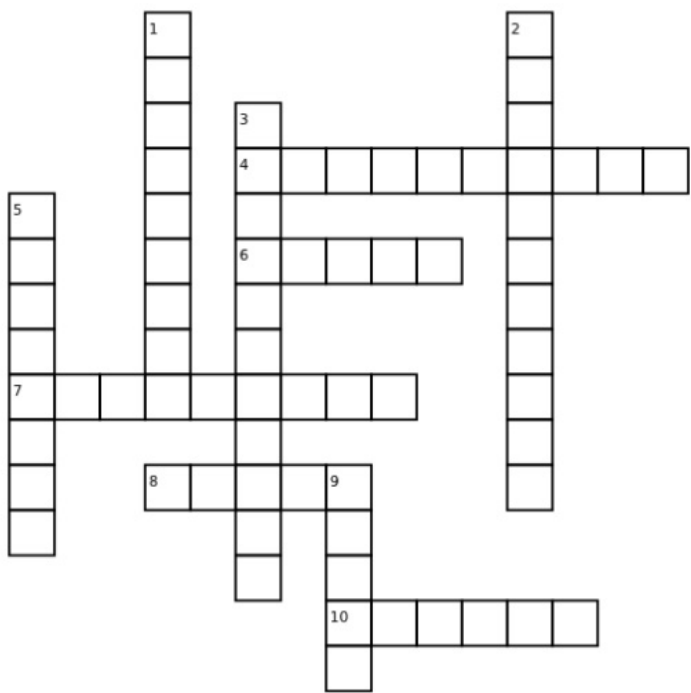
In contrast when we complain and grumble in our circumstances we are not serving God. We are serving the evil kingdom of Satan and are living in opposition to the will of our Father. Therefore, it is very important that each believer everywhere prays humbly to God, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting.

In 1 Timothy 3:1-7 Paul addressed the importance of appointing men for leadership who are wise, understanding and knowledgeable in the truths of God. Someone who desires to be the leader of a congregation of believers desires a good work. He must be blameless of breaking certain laws of God. He must be the husband of only one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable and able to teach. He must not drink alcohol nor be greedy for money. He must not be violent but gentle. He must not be quarrelsome or covetous. He must rule his own household well in this manner, producing submissive and reverent children. He must have experience in leadership so that he does not become prideful and in danger of the same condemnation from God that the devil received. Finally, he must have a good reputation among those outside the church, giving them no reason to criticize him in a way that supports the schemes of the devil.



As believers we must be diligent to appoint Godly leadership over our congregations and we must be diligent to pray for them humbly as we trust in God. Constant grumbling and complaining instead of thankful, humble prayer can influence them in an evil way tempting them to disobey God. A believer should not follow a leader who willfully disobeys God in the sight of the congregation.

Recap Review Fun



Down:

- 1. Whenever we disobey God, He judges us according to His _____.
- 2. A hardened heart due to sin leads to _____.
- 3. Constant grumbling and _____ is a source of frustration or temptation for leaders to become angry and disobedient to God.
- 5. A leader who _____ God is no longer worthy to lead His people.
- 9. When a leader continually commits the same sin, it results in a hardened _____.

Across:

- 4. God does not accept offerings that are made out of _____.
- 6. That which is unholy can be made holy by the _____ of God.
- 7. Obedience to God’s Word results in His _____.
- 8. A lack of _____ in God results in disobedience to His Word.
- 10. Anyone who _____ against God will be devoured by the sword (death).

Word Bank

Obligation Standards Heart Power Destruction
Rebels Complaining Disobey Blessings Faith
Rebels Faith

