

Devarim Deuteronomy - Devarim (1-3.22)

These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel on the east bank of the Jordan River, in the 40th year, in the 11th month, on the 1st day of the month. They are across from the land of Canaan. Moses said, “Remember how God, our God, spoke to us at Horeb and said, ‘I have set this land before you, go in and take possession of the land that I swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants.’ God, your God, has multiplied you until you are now like the stars of heaven in multitude. May God, the God of your fathers, add to you and may God bless you.”

“At that time, I knew I could not handle your quarrels alone,” Moses said. “So I told you to bring wise men of your tribes and I would appoint them as judges. I charged these judges with specific duties. I instructed them saying ‘Hear disputes between your brethren and judge righteously between every man and his brother and the one who has come from abroad. You shall not show favoritism in judgment. You must hear the small and the great alike. Do not be impressed or fear any man, since judgment belongs to God. When a matter is too difficult for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it’.”

Moses continued, “Remember how you we came to overlook the land God is giving us. I said, ‘See, go and take it as God told you. Do not be afraid.’ But you approached me and asked for spies to go look at the land and the cities. So I did and they returned and said the land was good. Some of the spies feared the people who lived there, seeing them as giants. And you believed them! But I said, ‘Do not fear them. God, your God will fight for you just as God did, right before your eyes, in Egypt and will lead you just as God did in the wilderness with a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire.’ But still you were afraid and had no trust in God. So God became angry and declared that no-one in that evil generation would enter the land. Only the children, whom have no knowledge of good and evil, and Caleb and Joshua, the spies who had trust and told the truth, who shall enter this land.”

“Afterwards,” Moses continued, “you people came to me and said, ‘We have sinned against God so we will go and fight as God commanded us.’ But God said, ‘Do not fight because I am not with you.’ But you went anyway and the Amorites crushed you in war and you returned crying to God. So God led and we passed peacefully through different kingdoms buying food and supplies along the way and fighting when necessary to conquer the land. No one could defeat us because God was with us. Now Reuben and Gad will inherit this land on this side of the Jordan River.

Around that time I gave instructions to your new leader Joshua, saying "You have seen with your own eyes all that God, your Lord, has done to the two kings who went to battle. God will do the same to all the kingdoms in the land to which you will soon enter. So do not fear, since God, your God, is the God who fights for you, when it is time to fight.”

Questions: 1) What has God done for you that you have seen with your own eyes? 2) How do you handle fear? 3) How does God fight for you?

Illustration Ideas: Moses talking by the river to all the Israelites...Moses remembering the battles...wandering in the wilderness...the Israelites asking forgiveness...Moses telling the people to have no fear except God....