



A Torah Study Guide
for the Young
& Young at Heart

PARASHAT
DEVARIM
פרשת דברים

Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

by
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& his kids

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.


Great Discoveries in This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 1:1 Moses' Warns Israel to Be on Guard Against Sin
- 1:9 The Appointment of Judges Over the Israelites
- 1:19 The Bad Consequences of Choosing Men to Spy out the Land
- 2:1-3:11 Moses Recalls the Major Events of the 38 Years of Wandering
- 2:2 Respect Esau and Leave Them Alone
- 2:9 Do Not Trouble Moab
- 2:17 YHVH Commands Israel to March Toward the Promised Land
- 3:1 The Conquest of the Kingdom of Og
- 3:12 The Inheritance of Reuben, Gad, and Half of Manasseh on the East Side of the Jordan River

Exploring This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion):

**1 Moses Commissions the Younger Generation;
History Lesson Number One: Know Your History**

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses is speaking to the younger generation of Israelites. The oldest Israelites would have been about 60 years old, but most were probably under 40 years of age. Moses was 120 years old, and like a great, great-grandfather who knew that his end was near, he was instructing his beloved children on how to have great success as they went into the Promised Land.

-  (a) Have you ever sat at the feet of your grandfather or great uncle and



listened for hours as they fascinated you with stories from their childhood and of times long ago when things were very different from the way they are now? The stories may have been entertaining, but did you ever learn anything from the wisdom of the older man telling the stories? List several things you learned from them.

In today's Torah portion, the older man Moses is retelling Israel's story to the younger generation of Israelites. He is recounting Israel's wandering in the wilderness including the good times and the bad times. He wasn't just telling them a nice story; he was trying to teach them some valuable lessons from history, so that they would learn from the mistakes their parents

and grandparents had made. Grandfather Moses did not want the younger generation to make those same mistakes as their parents had made.





Studying history is a very good thing to do. History is the study of past events or things that happened in the lives of those who have gone before us. The Bible is a giant history book full of the stories of the lives of people who lived a long time ago. You may ask, "What does that have to do with me?" A lot! Even though the people of the Bible lived in ancient times before any of the modern things we have in today's world, those people of long ago were the same as us in many

ways. They had feelings, they thought, they laughed and cried. They got married and had families. They got sick and died. They built cities, houses, businesses and fought wars. There were good people and evil people. In many ways, they were the same as us except they may have dressed differently, had some different customs (traditions, behaviors, or practices of one's daily life), walked instead of driving a car, and worked on a farm instead of in an office.

These people made mistakes, just like we do. They suffered because of their mistakes. Do you want to make the same mistakes they did and suffer as they did—OR would you like to learn from their mistakes so that you will not have to suffer as they did and not have to go through the bad things they went through? The fewer mistakes we make in life, the more blessed we will be and the easier time in life we will have. This is one of the reasons why studying history is so important and valuable. It helps us to learn from OTHER people's mistakes so that we don't have to make the same mistakes as they made!

With this in mind, let's become historians (one who studies history) and briefly explore Israel's forty years of wandering in the desert wilderness. Let's see if we can discover any clues that will help us to live a better life and to not make the same mistakes the Israelites did.



2 History Lesson Number Two: Trust YHVH and Obey

-  (b) How long of a journey was it from Egypt to the Promised Land? (Read Deuteronomy 1:2.) How long did it actually take them to make the trip? (Look at verse 3.)
-  (c) Why then did it take Israel 40 years to make such a short trip? (Find the answer in Deuteronomy 1:21-28, 34-35, 39-40 and Numbers 32:8-13.)
-  (d) What was Israel's mistake that caused YHVH to make them wander in the wilderness until the older generation had died? What had YHVH told them to do? (See Deuteronomy 1:21 and Numbers 32:8-13.) Did Israel trust YHVH and do what he told them to do? When he said to "Fear not" did they fear and then begin to grumble and complain against him refusing to obey him? (Read Deuteronomy 1:26-28.)
-  (e) What can we learn from Israel's mistake? When YHVH tells us to do something

should we doubt him, or just do it trusting him to make it possible for us to do what he told us to do, and trusting him that he will destroy our enemies and any obstacles before us that would try to hinder us? (Read Deuteronomy 1:30.) Did YHVH take care of the Israelites in the wilderness? (Note verses 31,33.) Will he take care of us today as he took care of our forefathers so long ago?





Fear not! Trust and obey.

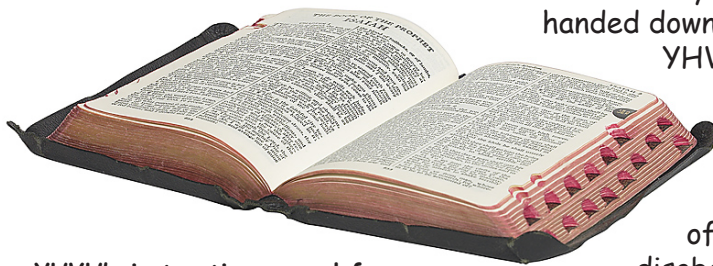
-  (f) Make a list of some wonderful—maybe even miraculous—ways YHVH has taken care of you and your family. Has he given you some special blessings, answered some specific prayers, healed you, or supernaturally protected you from some dangerous situations?
-  (g) Is NOT trusting YHVH and believing his Word sin? (Read Deuteronomy 1:32.) What did he call those who refused to follow his Word? (Look at verse 35.)

3 History Lesson Number Three: Carefully Follow the Instructions of YHVH

As Israel was making its way to the Promised Land, it wasn't like the Promised Land was empty just waiting for the Israelites to move in. There were people already living there who didn't want to leave their lands and homes. Yet YHVH had given this land to the Israelites, which meant that the other people had to go. For Israel to take this land, they had to follow YHVH's instructions to the letter, or else many Israelites would be killed and be defeated.

-  (h) Do we have an example in this Torah portion where YHVH told Israel NOT to go somewhere and not to fight a certain enemy? What were the consequences of Israel's not following YHVH's clear instructions? (See Deuteronomy 1:41-45.)
-  (i) There was another time when YHVH told the Israelites to do something and they obeyed his instructions. What was that example and what was the result of their obeying him? Were they blessed or cursed? (Read Deuteronomy 2:26-35 and 3:1-8.)

The valuable history lessons we learn from these ancient stories handed down to us from long ago are several. If we follow YHVH's instructions carefully and quickly out of a heart of love and faith, we will be blessed. If we don't follow them now, or put off following them until tomorrow, it may well be too late and we'll end up reaping the consequences of our actions (namely, curses resulting from disobedience to the Torah, the Word of YHVH); we will be defeated and things will not go well for us. YHVH



YHVH's instruction manual for man.

wants his people including modern Israelites (that's you and me) to help him to build his spiritual kingdom here on this earth. This is not easy to do.


Building kingdoms involves changing people's lives and attitudes about things. Not all people want to change their lives and start living for YHVH. Most in fact like their sin and rebellion and don't want anyone to mess with them. So as we go along as YHVH's servants helping to advance his kingdom, there will be conflicts, battles, and struggles we will have in fighting against evil. The battle zones may be in your own family, at your place of work, at school, in your town, in your state or nation—or even in churches! We must let YHVH direct us each

step of the way and show us how to help push his kingdom forward, but we must do so in love and wisdom.


Yeshua is our captain (Hebrews 2:10) who tells us what to do and when to do it. He is our leader and our chief (Ephesians 2:20). We have to follow his instructions and he will lead and direct us as we seek his guidance and learn to hear his voice.

4 History Lesson Number Four: Avoid Fights With Certain People

In Deuteronomy 2:2-9, the Israelites are on their way to the Promised Land and he tells them to avoid getting into a fight with someone. He wants the Israelites to be on their best behavior so that as they pass through the land belonging to another nation they will not do anything that might disturb these people. Let's explore this piece of history.

 (j) Whose land did YHVH want Israel to pass through? (Read Deuteronomy 2:4.) Who was Esau? (Turn to Genesis 25:21-26.) Jacob was the father of the Israelites, while Esau was the Father of the Edomites. What does the Bible prophesy would happen between the descendants of Jacob and Esau—what kind of relations would they have? (Look at Genesis 25:23 and 27:37-42.) Especially note the sword part in verse 40 and what Esau's attitude was toward Jacob in verse 41-42. If the hatred Esau had for Jacob got passed on down to Esau's descendants, do you think YHVH would have had good reason to tell Israel to avoid angering Esau's descendants when passing through their land?



 (k) What lessons can we learn from this? There were some enemies YHVH told Israel to attack and to destroy. On the other hand, there were some enemies YHVH told Israel NOT to attack and to destroy, but to avoid. (Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and discuss.) How do we know when it is the time to attack, and when it is time to avoid fighting? When is it time to make alive and time to kill? When it is time to build up and to tear down? (Read Proverbs 3:5-7 for the answer.) Once again, we are talking about walking closely to YHVH, trusting in him, hearing his voice and following his instructions. This is an important history lesson to learn, and one that will help you to NOT make the same mistakes the Israelites made.

