

RaYBaSH's Torah Thoughts for Kids

Parashah #44 Devarim "Words"

Deut. 1:1- 3:22

By: Rabbi Yehudah ben Shomeyr

Have you ever had a Grandparent or someone you would never see again, or at least not for a long time tell you something very important they wanted you to remember? And have you ever sat down with a yearbook and just remembered all the things of the past school year? Or what about sitting down with your family and thumb through the old photo albums and reminisce about family vacations and stuff? Well, this is kind of what Deuteronomy is all about. Moses is about to die and so he is giving his farewell speech and reviewing their 40 years journey and all the lessons they have learned on the way including the Torah itself.

In other words, Devarim is Exodus Leviticus and Numbers in Moshe's own words.

Moshe recaps the events of the 40 year journey to the next generation which is about to enter and take the Promised Land. He speaks of:

- Most of the encampments during the journey.
- The appointment of the judges.
- The mission of the 12 spies with the 10 bringing back an evil report, and the 2 (Yehoshuah and Kalev) good reports. How the evil report angered YHWH because this caused Israel to sin and rebel against G-d by not taking the Promise Land at that time. This generated further rebellion by Israel trying to take the land after YHWH had decreed that all but Yehoshuah and Klev would die off in the wilderness and how the next generation would take the Land.
- How Esav, Moav and Amon have their Inheritance of Land also allotted by YHWH Himself, and Israel has theirs totally separate from that of their relatives.
- The conquest of Sihon and Og the Giant Kings.
- And finally the inheritance of Reuven, Gad and Manashe on this side of the Yarden as long as they build homes for their families and pens for their animals first and then take up arms and cross over with the rest of Israel until the Land is conquered and their brothers are settled.

And so kicks off the book of Deuteronomy.

Shabbat Shalom and Shavuah Tov!

-- Rabbi Yehudah