

Study Guide for September 28th, 2003. Series: Such Good Lives. Deut. 2:24-37 - Initial Victories.

Introduction: Imagine what it was like for the Kansas City Royals at the beginning of the 2003 baseball season. They had lost more than 100 games in 2002. But they won a string of games in April. How important are initial victories in affecting your attitude for a protracted challenge you are about to face?

- I. (Deut. 2:24-25) Begin to take possession:
 - A. What does God command Israel to do?
 - B. What does God promise Israel He will do for them?
 - C. What does God predict will happen with the enemy?
 - D. What impact would these statements by God, through Moses, have on the people?
 - E. Reflect on the statement, “What God promises to give, we must endeavor to get.” (M. Henry) How have you seen that truth demonstrated in your life?

- II. (Deut. 2:26- 30) “If it is possible, . . . live at peace with everyone.” (Rom. 12:18)
 - A. What offer does Moses make to Sihon?
 - B. What precedent does Moses refer to in making this offer? (see Deut. 2: 2-6, 9, 18-19)
 - C. How would you respond to the statement, “The God of the Old Testament is vengeful. I can’t see how he is the same as the God of love I read about in the New Testament.” (see Gen. 15:16)
 - D. How does Sihon respond to the offer Moses extends to him?
 - E. Reflect on these words in vs. 30, “For the Lord your God had made his spirit stubborn and his heart obstinate in order to give him into your hands, as he has now done.” Comment on this explanation, “The OT steadily refuses to see any inconsistency between human freedom and divine sovereignty. Because the ancient Hebrews ascribed all causality to God, it was both natural and proper for them to see the response of Sihon in the light of the larger activity of God.”
 - F. Are there relationships where you could do more to “live in peace”? Are there others where you sense hearts have been hardened to the point of removing the possibility of peace? How do you distinguish between the two?

- III. (Deut. 2:31-37) Begin to conquer.
 - A. What activities does Moses ascribe to God in this report?
 - B. What responsibility does Moses give to the people?
 - C. What evidences in this text do you see that Israel obeyed God completely?
 - D. In light of this encounter, what would you expect of Israel in upcoming battles?

Conclusion: The defeat of Sihon becomes part of Israel’s sacred history (see Psalm 135, 136). What are some examples of victories God has won for you that continue to inspire and encourage you?