

Deuteronomy 2

Verses 1 - 7

“Then we turned and set out for the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea, as the Lord spoke to me, and we circled Mount Seir for many days. ² And the Lord spoke to me, saying, ³ ‘You have circled this mountain long enough. Now turn north, ⁴ and command the people, saying, “You are going to pass through the territory of your brothers the sons of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. So be very careful; ⁵ do not provoke them, for I will not give you any of their land, *not even* as much as a footprint, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession. ⁶ You are to buy food from them with money so that you may eat, and you shall also purchase water from them with money so that you may drink. ⁷ For the Lord your God has blessed you in all that you have done; He has known your wandering through this great wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you; you have not lacked anything.””

In chapter 1, Moses retold several events that took place in the wilderness during the first 2 years.

See Chart 205

Events in Deut. 1				
Deut.	Exodus	Event	Year 1	Place
1:9-18	Ex 18	Jethro/Judges appointed	3rd or 4th month	The Desert of Sinai
Deut.	Exodus	Event	Year 2	Place
1:19-25	Num 10:11	Leave Sinai	2-20-02	Horeb/Sinai
1:19-25	Num 12:16	Arrive at Kadesh-barnea	3-2-02	At Kadesh
1:19-25	Num 13	Spies sent out	40 days	At Kadesh
1:26-33	Num 14	The people rebel	4th month	At Kadesh
1:41-46	Num 14:44-45	Defeated by Amorites	4th month	At Kadesh

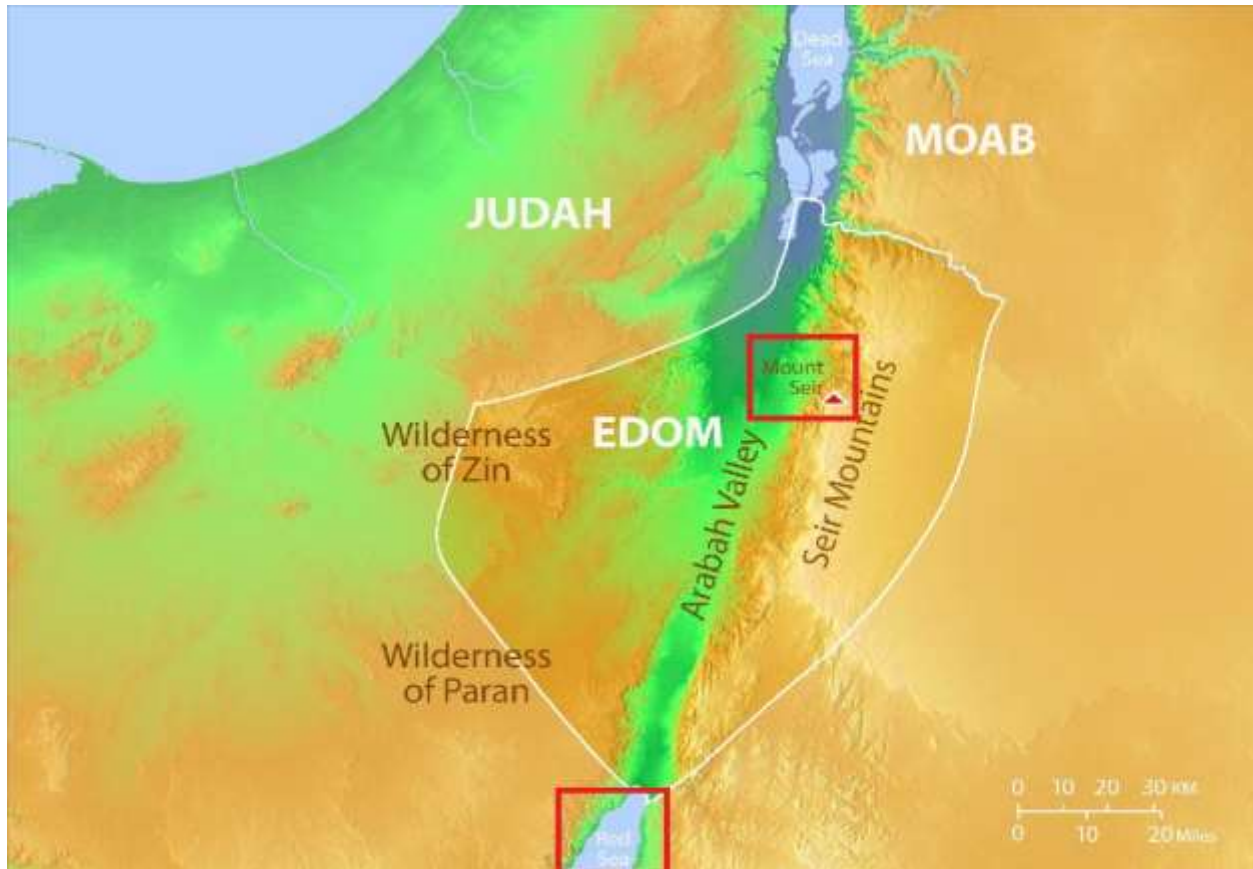
Beginning here in chapter 2 it is now year 40.

Moses had nothing to say about years 3 thru 39.

Then we turned and set out for the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea, as the Lord spoke to me, and we circled Mount Seir for many days

They traveled from the south (by the Red Sea) to Mount Seir (Edom) in the North

See Map 210



You are going to pass through the territory of your brothers the sons of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. So be very careful; ⁵ do not provoke them, for I will not give you any of their land, *not even* as much as a footprint, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession

Isaac and Rebecca had twin boys which they named Jacob and Esau and Esau became the father of the Edomite's.

God told Moses not to provoke them. God has always determined what nations would possess what lands and this was no exception.

See Acts 17:26

Verses 8 – 12

⁸ “So we passed beyond our brothers the sons of Esau, who live in Seir, away from the Arabah road, away from Elath and Ezion-geber. And we turned and passed through by the way of the wilderness of Moab. ⁹ Then the Lord said to me, ‘Do not attack Moab, nor provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the sons of Lot as a possession.’ ¹⁰ (The Emim lived there previously, a people as great, numerous, and tall as the Anakim. ¹¹ Like the Anakim, they too are regarded as Rephaim, but the Moabites call them Emim. ¹² The Horites previously lived in Seir, but the sons of Esau dispossessed them and destroyed them from before them, and settled in their place; just as Israel did to the land of their possession which the Lord gave them.)

⁸ “So we passed beyond our brothers the sons of Esau, who live in Seir, away from the Arabah road, away from Elath and Ezion-geber

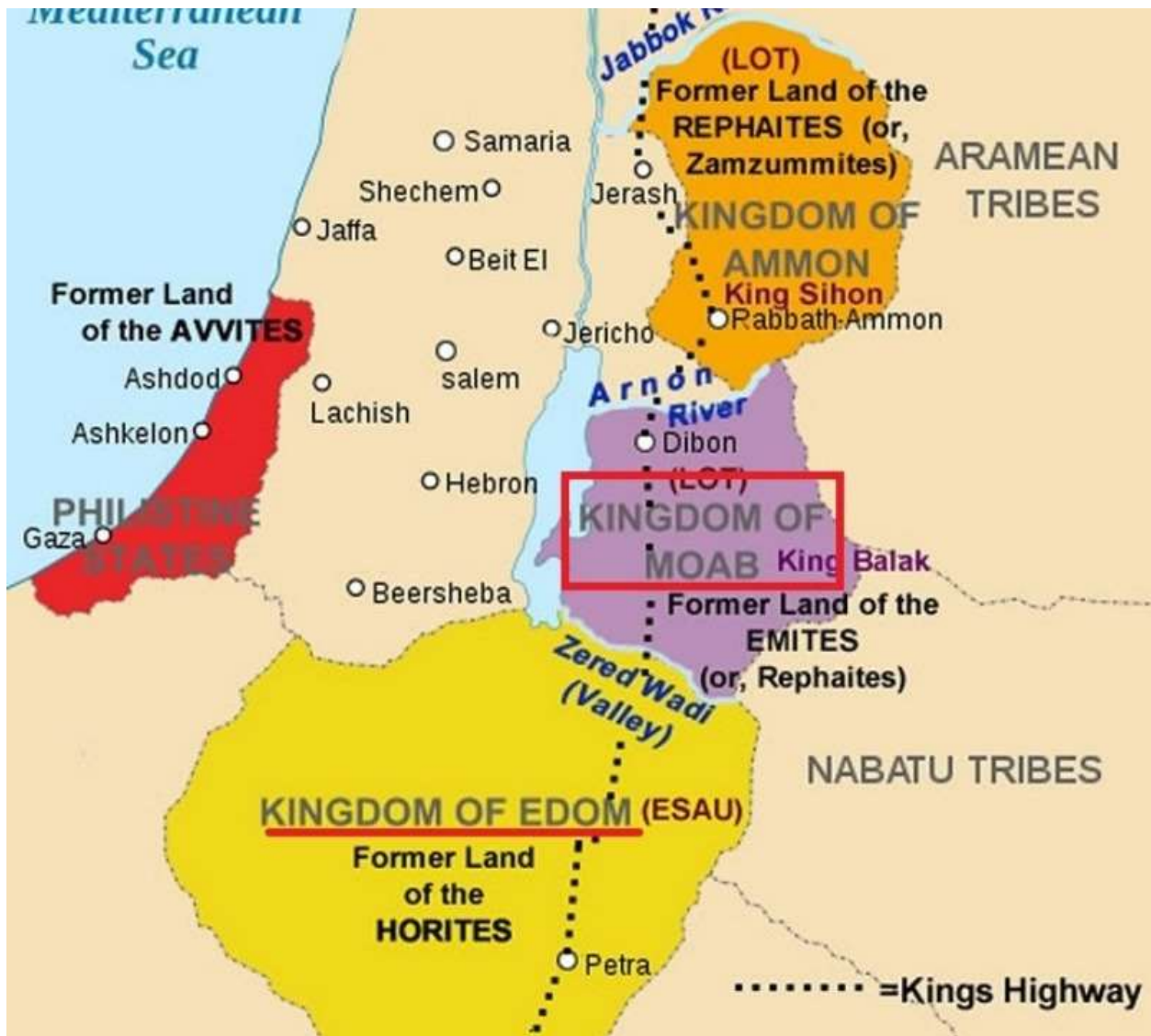
See map 215



Moses described how Israel went from the Red Sea to Edom and then recounts the places they passed thru but in reverse order.

And we turned and passed through by the way of the wilderness of Moab. ⁹ Then the Lord said to me, 'Do not attack Moab, nor provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the sons of Lot as a possession'

See Map 220



Israel left the land of Edom and went to the land of Moab.

They probably followed the Kings Highway since it was a well established route.

This land was given to the sons of Lot

This is another example of God's control in allotting land to a specific people.

¹⁰ The Emim lived there previously, a people as great, numerous, and tall as the Anakim. ¹¹ Like the Anakim, they too are regarded as Rephaim, but the Moabites call them Emim. ¹² The Horites previously lived in Seir, but the sons of Esau dispossessed them and destroyed them from before them, and settled in their place; just as Israel did to the land of their possession which the Lord gave them.)

Moses gives us some interesting history behind these two nations

The Emites and Horites lived in this area during the time of Abraham (1900 BC)

See Genesis 14:5-6

The Moabites received their land by defeating the Emites (The Emites were giants like the Anakites and the Rephaites).

The Edomite's received their land by defeating the Horites

How did Moses know who occupied this land prior to Edom and Moab?

He may have learned this during his training when he was a prince in Egypt or God revealed it to him when he was writing scripture.

These changes in government are two more examples of how God uses one nation to judge another nation when their nation's Day of Judgment has arrived.

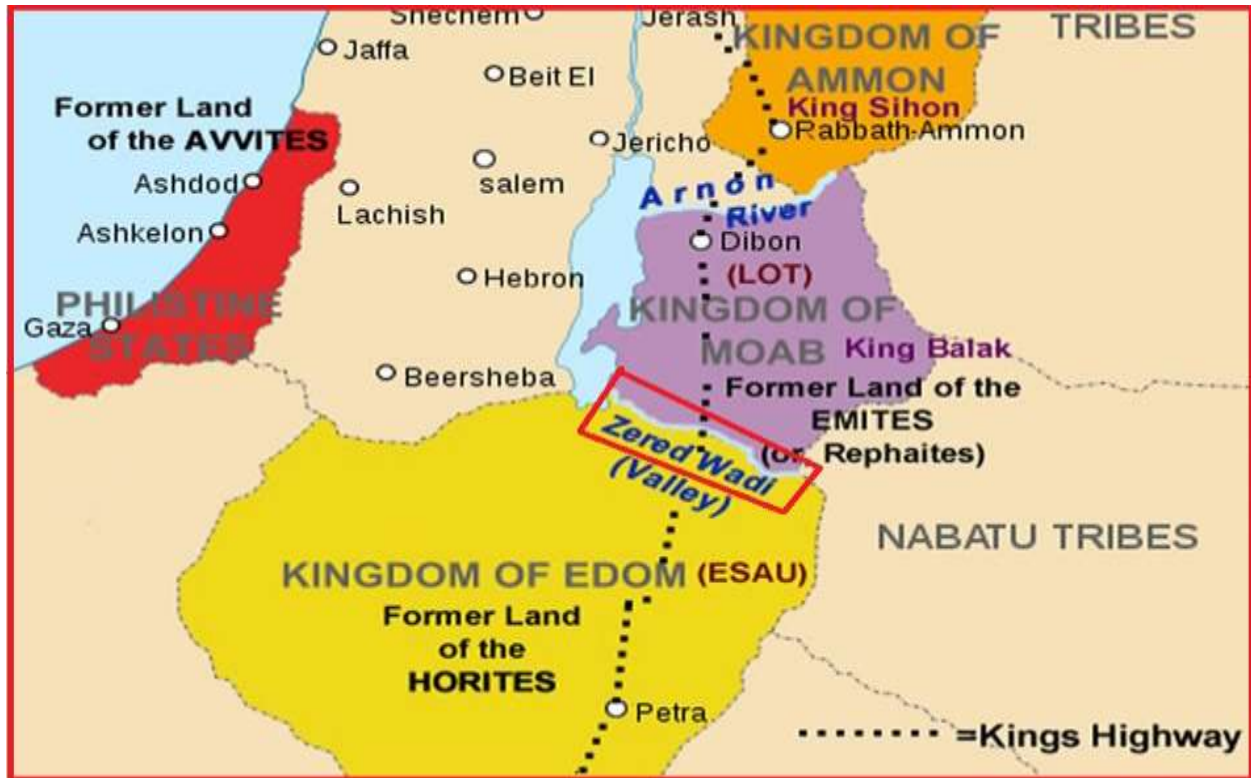
Verses 13 – 15

¹³ 'Now arise and cross over the Wadi Zered yourselves.' So we crossed over the Wadi Zered. ¹⁴ Now the time that it took for us to come from Kadesh-barnea until we crossed over the Wadi Zered was thirty-eight years, until all the generation of the men of war perished from within the camp, just as the Lord had sworn to them. ¹⁵ Indeed, the hand of the Lord was against them, to destroy them from within the camp until they all perished.

Now arise and cross over the Wadi Zered

This is the southern border of Moab

See Map 225



Now the time that it took for us to come from Kadesh-barnea until we crossed over the Wadi Zered was thirty-eight years,

See Chart 230.

Numbers time line

Numbers	Event	Year 2 - 1445	Place
12:16	Arrive at Kadesh-barnea	3-2-02	At Kadesh
13	Explore Canaan	40 days	At Kadesh
14	The people rebel	4th month	At Kadesh
14:44-45	Defeated by Amorites	4th month	Hill country
Numbers	Event	Year 3 - 39	Place
15 - 19	Three events	1444 - 1408	Wilderness
Numbers	Event	Year 40 - 1407	Place
20:1	Miriam dies	1st month	At Kadesh
20:12	Moses & Aaron sin	1st month	At Kadesh
20:14	Do not Harass them	4th Month	Seir (Edom)
20:22	Aaron dies	5-1-40	Mount Hor
21:1-3	King of Arad attacks Israel	months 6-10	Hormah
21:12	Sothern border of Moab	months 6-10	Zered Valley
21:13	Northern border of Moab	months 6-10	Arnon

Indeed, the hand of the Lord was against them, to destroy them from within the camp until they all perished.

Anybody over the age of 20 at the rebellion could not enter the Promised Land.

This event took place in the 2nd year of their 40 years in the wilderness

Some died from various judgments such as rebellions, some by enemy forces attacking the weaker members at the outskirts of the camp and others by more natural causes.

But in the end, only Joshua & Caleb would enter the Promised Land from the group that was over the age of 20 and refused to enter Canaan.

This means everyone was 58 years old or younger when they entered Canaan except for Joshua & Caleb.

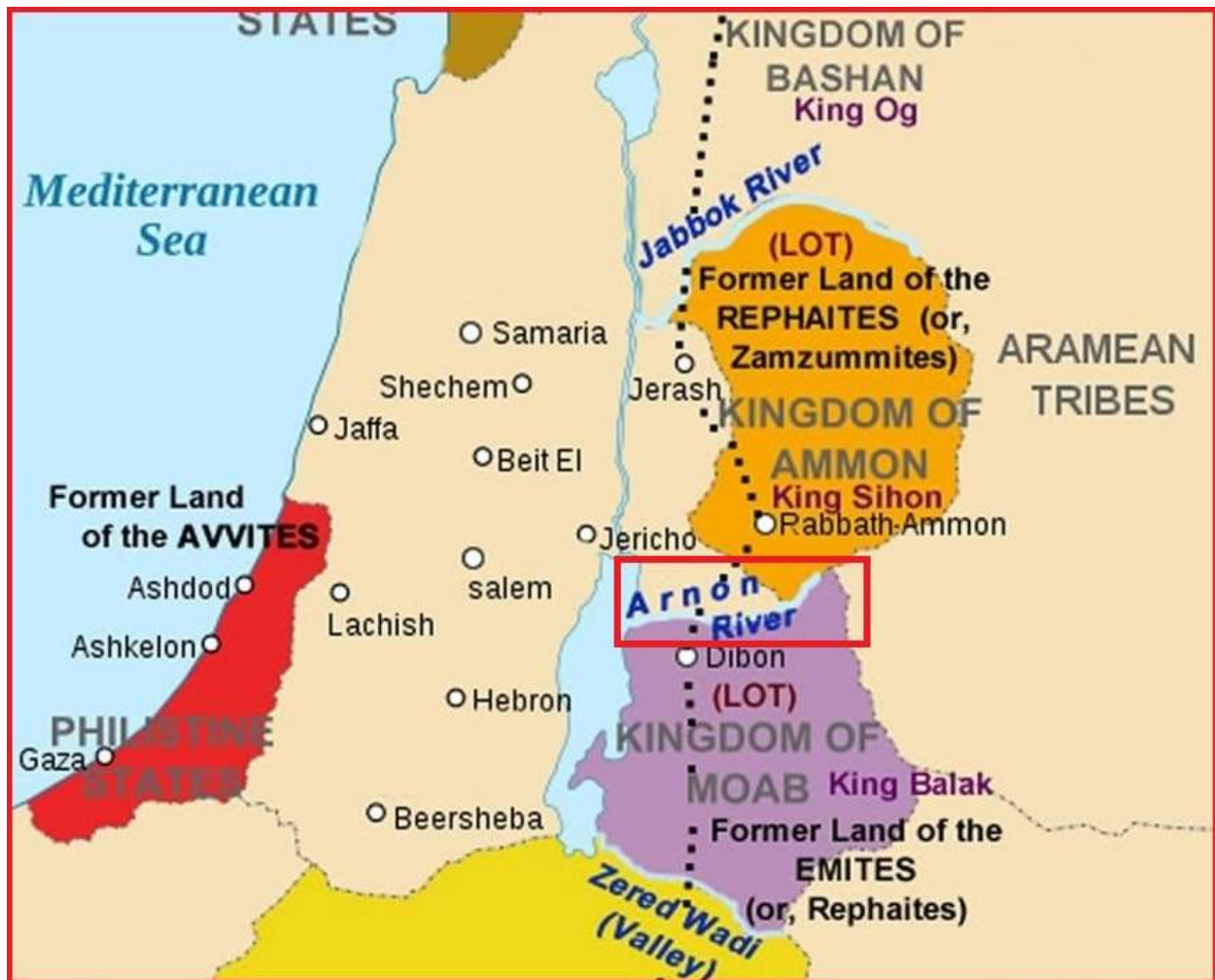
Verses 16 - 23

¹⁶ “So it came about, when all the men of war had finally perished from among the people, ¹⁷ that the Lord spoke to me, saying, ¹⁸ ‘Today you shall cross over Ar, the border of Moab. ¹⁹ When you come opposite the sons of Ammon, do not attack them nor provoke them, for I will not give you any of the land of the sons of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot as a possession.’ ²⁰ (It is also regarded as the land of the Rephaim, *because the Rephaim* previously lived in it, but the Ammonites call them Zamzummin, ²¹ a people as great, numerous, and tall as the Anakim; but the Lord destroyed them before them. And they dispossessed them and settled in their place, ²² just as He did for the sons of Esau, who live in Seir, when He destroyed the Horites from before them; they dispossessed them and settled in their place, *where they remain* even to this day. ²³ And *as for* the Avvim, who lived in villages as far as Gaza, the Caphtorim, who came from Caphtor, destroyed them and lived in their place.)

The Lord spoke to me, saying, today you shall cross over Ar, the border of Moab.

Ar is the Arnon River which is the northern border of Moab and southern border of Ammon.

See map 235



When you come opposite the sons of Ammon, do not attack them nor provoke them, for I will not give you any of the land of the sons of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot as a possession.

Ben-ammi was born to Lot by his younger daughter and he became the father of the Ammonites.

Moab was born to Lot by his older daughter and became the father of the Moabites

See Genesis 19:37–38

God warned Israel to leave three nations alone.

Edom, Moab and now Ammon

It is also regarded as the land of the Rephaim, because the Rephaim previously lived in it, but the Ammonites call them Zamzummin

The area now controlled by the Ammonites once belonged to the Rephaim.

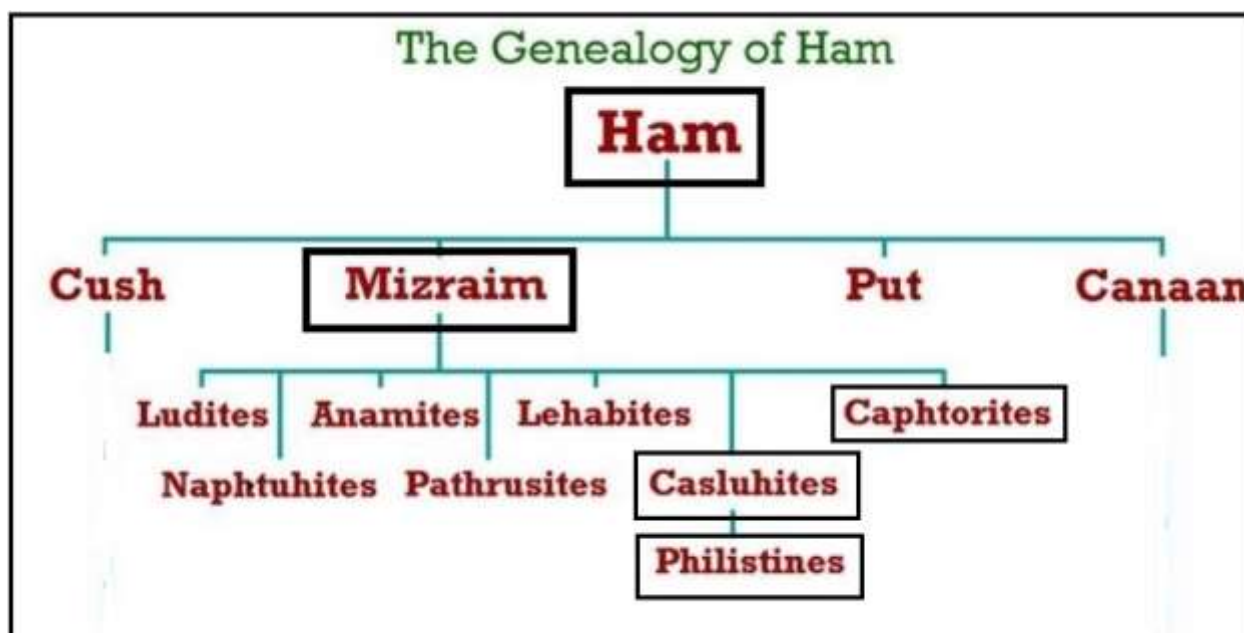
These giant men (the Rephaim) lost their land when God decided it was time for their Day of Judgment.

And as for the Avvim, who lived in villages as far as Gaza, the Caphtorim, who came from Caphtor, destroyed them and lived in their place

Moses provides some more valuable history here.

The Caphtorim destroyed the Avvim and took over their land

See pic 240



The Caphtorim, who must have been the stronger tribe of the two brothers, are credited with destroying the Avvim but the descendants of his brother Casluhim (the Philistines) had become the dominate tribe by the time of the exodus.

See Exodus 13:17

In any case, the Philistines remained a powerhouse in this area thru most of the time that Israel lived in Canaan

See Map 245



Verses 24 – 25

²⁴ ‘Arise, set out, and pass through the Valley of Arnon. Look! I have handed over to you Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land; start taking possession and plunge into battle with him. ²⁵ This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you upon the faces of people everywhere, who, when they hear the news of you, will tremble and be in anguish because of you.’

I have handed over to you Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land; start taking possession and plunge into battle with him

See Map 250



God protected Edom, Moab and Ammon, but not the other nations.

Verses 26 – 31

²⁶ “So I sent messengers from the wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying, ²⁷ ‘Let me pass through your land; I will travel only on the road. I will not turn aside to the right or to the left. ²⁸ You will sell me food for money so that I may eat, and give me water for money so that I may drink, only let me pass through on foot, ²⁹ just as the sons of Esau who live in Seir and the Moabites who live in Ar did for me, until I cross over the Jordan into the land that the Lord our God is giving us.’ ³⁰ But Sihon king of Heshbon was not willing for us to pass through his land; for the Lord your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, in order to hand him over to you, as *he is* today. ³¹ And the Lord said to me, ‘See, I have begun to turn Sihon and his land over to you. Begin taking possession, so that you may possess his land.’

²⁶ “So I sent messengers from the wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying, ²⁷ ‘Let me pass through your land; I will travel only on the road. I will not turn aside to the right or to the left.

Moses tried a peaceful approach, but it will not work.

²⁸ You will sell me food for money so that I may eat, and give me water for money so that I may drink, only let me pass through on foot, ²⁹ just as the sons of Esau who live in Seir and the Moabites who live in Ar did for me, until I cross over the Jordan into the land that the Lord our God is giving us.’

Unfortunately, what Moses said here seems to conflict other scripture.

See Numbers 20:18-21

²⁰ But he said, “You shall not pass through.” And Edom came out against him with a heavy force and a strong hand. ²¹ So Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through his territory; then Israel turned away from him.

See Judges 11:14-22

¹⁴ But Jephthah sent messengers once again to the king of the sons of Ammon, ¹⁵ and they said to him, “This is what Jephthah says: ‘Israel did not take the land of Moab nor the land of the sons of Ammon. ¹⁶ For when they came up from Egypt, and Israel went through the wilderness to the Red Sea, and came to Kadesh, ¹⁷ then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, “Please let us pass through your land”; but the king of Edom would not listen. And they also sent messengers to the king of Moab, but he would not consent. So Israel remained at Kadesh. ¹⁸ Then they went through the wilderness and around the land of Edom and the land of Moab, and came to the east side of the land of Moab, and they camped beyond the Arnon; but they did not enter the territory of Moab, for the Arnon was the border of Moab.

There are numerous solutions from well-meaning people concerning this issue but repeating solutions that don't make sense or create other issues is a waste of the readers' time.

The answer should meet the test of Occam's razor.

Is it possible that Moses was not telling the truth to King Sihon?

In chapter 1 Moses told the people that the Lord was angry with him on their account, but as we have seen it was a lack of trust on Moses part.

But Sihon king of Heshbon was not willing for us to pass through his land; for the Lord your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate

God did not tell Moses ahead of time that he would harden the king's heart so Moses approached the king in a humble manner. Even with a great prophet like Moses God does not reveal all that He is doing.

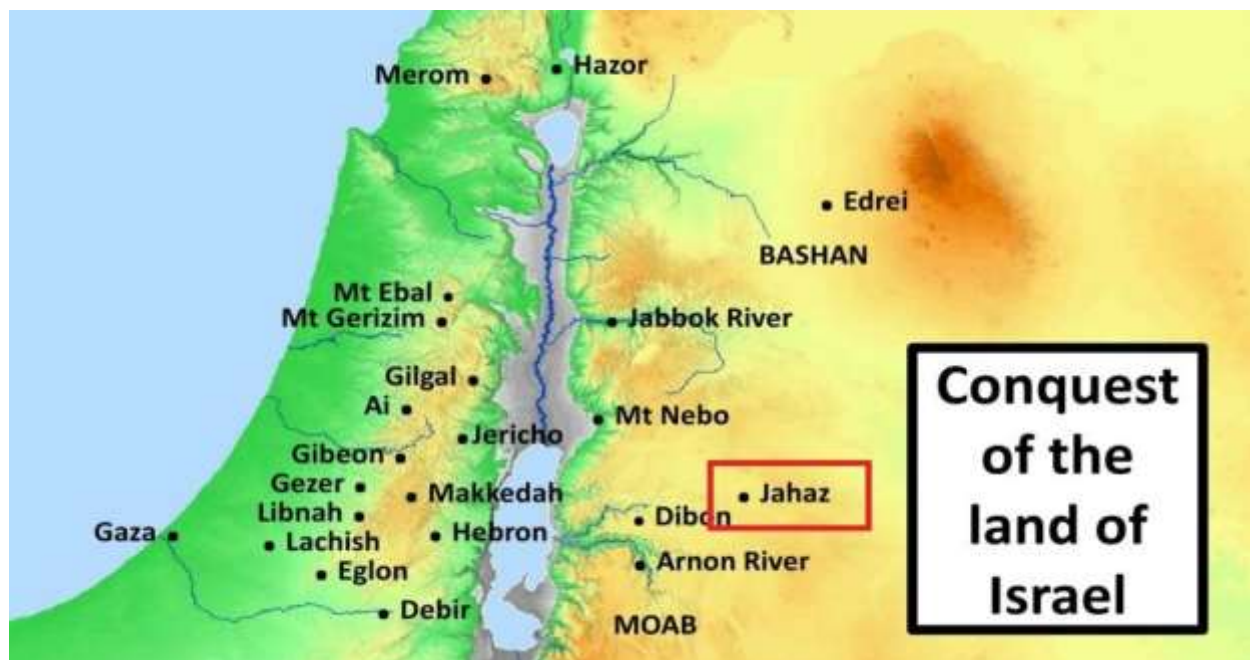
Verses 32 -37

³² “Then Sihon came out with all his people to meet us in battle at Jahaz. ³³ And the Lord our God turned him over to us, and we defeated him with his sons and all his people. ³⁴ So we captured all his cities at that time and utterly destroyed the men, women, and children of every city. We left no survivor. ³⁵ We took only the animals as our plunder, and the spoils of the cities which we had captured. ³⁶ From Aroer which is on the edge of the Valley of Arnon and *from* the city which is in the valley, even to Gilead, there was no city that was too high for us; the Lord our God turned it all over to us. ³⁷ Only you did not go near the land of the sons of Ammon, all along the river Jabbok and the cities of the hill country, and wherever the Lord our God had commanded us *to avoid*.

This event is recorded in Numbers 21

Then Sihon came out with all his people to meet us in battle at Jahaz

See Map 255



So we captured all his cities at that time and utterly destroyed the men, women, and children of every city. We left no survivor. ³⁵ We took only the animals as our plunder, and the spoils of the cities which we had captured.

Only God knows when a nation has reached the point of no return and Sihon had reached that point.

God made the decision and used Israel to do his will.

They took no prisoners, but slaughtered man, woman, and child

The destruction of women and children seems untenable to a lot of people but they have ignored a vital truth in doing so.

When Israel relented in this policy and absorbed the conquered peoples into their nation, Israel was corrupted by their pagan subjects and ended up worshiping their gods. When this happened, Israel suffered the same fate.

It is interesting how many people in today's culture believe they are wiser than God and mock anyone who agrees with God that all of the people needed to be killed.