

Deuteronomy 9

Verses 1 - 3

“Hear, Israel! You are crossing the Jordan today, to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, cities *that are* great and fortified to heaven,² a people *who are* great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know and of whom you have heard *it said*, ‘Who can stand against the sons of Anak?’³ So be aware today that it is the Lord your God who is crossing over ahead of you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and He will subdue them before you, so that you may drive them out and eliminate them quickly, just as the Lord has spoken to you.

You are crossing the Jordan today

When Moses says today he means in about 1 and ½ months.

Moses has some more teaching to do, and then in a couple of weeks he will die and be buried by God and the people of Israel will mourn him for 30 days.

To go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, cities *that are* great and fortified to heaven,² a people *who are* great and tall, the sons of the Anakim

The Canaanites had a huge advantage over Israel. They outnumbered Israel; they had walled cities that were 40 feet high and they were inhabited by the Anakim, the tallest, strongest, and mightiest men of antiquity.

So be aware today that it is the Lord your God who is crossing over ahead of you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and He will subdue them before you

God wanted Israel to understand that the real battle was being fought by Him for the following reasons:

1. Going to war is unpredictable and when it is against a strong enemy it requires more faith than the sons of Israel had at this time.
2. After the battle was over, there would be a temptation to think that they had done it by their own strength and power.

Verses 4 - 5

⁴“Do not say in your heart when the Lord your God has driven them away from you, ‘Because of my righteousness the Lord has brought me in to take possession of this land.’ Rather, *it is* because of the wickedness of these nations *that* the Lord is dispossessing them before you. ⁵ *It is* not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart *that* you are going in to take possession of their land, but *it is* because of the wickedness of these nations *that* the Lord your God is driving them out from before you, and in order to confirm the oath which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Do not say in your heart, Because of my righteousness the Lord has brought me in to take possession of this land

This was a tremendous thing that was about to occur.

Israel was about to defeat and plunder 7 nations and some of them had great defenses and were considered invincible.

Any nation taking part in such an experience might get a big head and start thinking it was because of their ability and righteousness

See video 905 Don't let it go to your head

<https://www.levickfamily.com/9.22.html>

But *it is* because of the wickedness of these nations, and in order to confirm the oath which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

God stated to reasons why were the Canaanites were driven out?

1. Because the Canaanites had become very wicked.

They worshiped Asherah, the goddess of passion.

Some of the temples dedicated to her worship boasted of 1000 or more male and female prostitutes.

2. God was fulfilling a promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

God was doing this for those who had been faithful to his will.

Verses 6 - 10

⁶ “**Know, then, that *it is* not because of your righteousness *that* the Lord your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stubborn people.**

⁷ **Remember, do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to anger in the wilderness; from the day that you left the land of Egypt until you arrived at this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord.** ⁸ **Even at Horeb you provoked the Lord to anger, and the Lord was so angry with you that He would have destroyed you.** ⁹ **When I went up to the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which the Lord made with you, then I remained on the mountain for forty days and nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water.** ¹⁰ **The Lord gave me the two tablets of stone written by the finger of God; and on them were all the words which the Lord had spoken with you at the mountain from the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly.**

⁷ **do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to anger in the wilderness; from the day that you left the land of Egypt until you arrived at this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord**

God did not hold the 2nd generation, those who were under the age of 20, guilty for refusing to enter Canaan. They were too young to be responsible. However, each one of these people became guilty of being stubborn and rebellious at some point during the 40 years in the wilderness.

Technically, some of these people were not guilty of provoking the Lord from the day they left Egypt, but no one should expect Moses to make that distinction while teaching a lesson to the people. His point was simple; it was not because of their righteousness that God was giving them the land.

Even at Horeb you provoked the Lord to anger, and the Lord was so angry with you that He would have destroyed you.

Why was Moses using the pronoun you instead of them?

Beginning here and continuing for a little while, the pronouns being used seem out of place. Most of the 2nd generation was not old enough at this time to be responsible for this event because it took place in the 1st year of the wilderness.

See timeline 910 below.

Exodus time line

Exodus	Event	Year 1 - 1446	Place
12:2	New Calendar	1-1-01	Egypt
12:3	Select a lamb	1-10-01	Egypt
12:37	The Exodus from Egypt	1-15-01	Rameses
14:21-22	Crossing of the Red Sea		Red Sea
15:23	Bitter water		Marah
15:27	12 springs and 70 palm trees		Elim
16:1	Manna and quail	3-15-01	The Desert of Sin
17:1	no water, Amalekites defeated		Rephidim
18	Judges appointed		Near the Mountain of God
19:1	Camped in front of the mountain	4th month	The Desert of Sinai
20	The ten commandments		The Desert of Sinai
21-23	Laws and regulations		The Desert of Sinai
24	Covenant confirmed	40 days and nights	The Desert of Sinai
25-31	Tabernacle envisioned		The Desert of Sinai
32	Golden Calf	Month 5 or 6	The Desert of Sinai
34	New stone tablets	Month 6 or 7	The Desert of Sinai
36-39	Building the Tabernacle	5 to 6 months	The Desert of Sinai
Exodus	Event	Year 2 - 1445	Place
40:1	Set up the Tabernacle	1-1-02	The Desert of Sinai

Verses 11 - 14

¹¹ It came about at the end of forty days and nights that the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant. ¹² Then the Lord said to me, 'Arise, go down from here quickly, because your people, whom you brought out of Egypt, have behaved corruptly. They have quickly turned aside from the way that I commanded them; they have made a cast metal image for themselves.' ¹³ The Lord also said to me, 'I have seen this people, and indeed, it is a stubborn people. ¹⁴ Leave Me alone, that I may destroy them and wipe out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they.'

Then the Lord said to me, 'Arise, go down from here quickly, because your people, whom you brought out of Egypt, have behaved corruptly

How did Moses respond to this?

See Ex. 32:11

Moses said to the Lord,

Why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt?

Moses said, I'm rubber, you're glue, and whatever you say bounces off of me and sticks to you. 😊 😊

Now Moses said it in a very diplomatic way since he was talking to God but that is essentially what he said.

And Moses was right about this; God was the one who brought Israel out of Egypt.

¹⁴ Leave Me alone, that I may destroy them and wipe out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they.'

God could have done this but then He would have had to renege on his promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Moses was from the tribe of Levi but all of the other tribes would have been lost from the sons of Jacob.

Verses 15-16

¹⁵ "So I turned and came down from the mountain while the mountain was burning with fire, and the two tablets of the covenant were in my two hands. ¹⁶ And I saw that you had indeed sinned against the Lord your God. You had made for yourselves a cast metal image of a calf; you had quickly turned aside from the way that the Lord had commanded you.

¹⁶ And I saw that you had indeed sinned against the Lord your God. You had made for yourselves a cast metal image of a calf; you had quickly turned aside from the way that the Lord had commanded you.

Moses continued to use the pronoun you instead of they.

You had indeed sinned

You had made a calf

You had quickly turned aside

The people responsible for this event (the adults) have all passed away and Moses is speaking to the next generation (those under the age of 20 when this took place).

See chart 915

Group	Age at the Exodus	Age in Book of Deuteronomy
1	51 Plus	all have died*
2	21 to 50	all have died*
3	Newborn to 20	40 to 60 years old
4		Their kids are 10 to 30 years old
5		Grandkids are Newborn to 10

* except for Moses, Joshua & Caleb

Moses had already made the point that this group of people was rebellious like their parents so why would it be necessary to accuse them of things they had not done?

Just to be clear, things like this need to be asked. People of faith should not be afraid to question things that they don't understand. Look at how Abraham questions God concerning His actions.

See pic 920

Genesis 18:22-26

²² Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the LORD. ²³ Abraham approached and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous people within the city; will You indeed sweep *it* away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from You to do such a thing, to kill the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are *treated alike*. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" ²⁶ So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the entire place on their account."

Was Abraham wrong to question God?

It seems God was not bothered in the least by his questions and in fact gives him a favorable answer.

God knows our hearts and when people of faith have sincere questions He is more than willing to help us find the answer.

On the other hand, if we are afraid to ask the questions that we have, what does that say about our trust and faith in God?

Verses 17 - 21

¹⁷ So I took hold of the two tablets and threw them from my two hands, and smashed them to pieces before your eyes! ¹⁸ Then I fell down before the Lord like the first *time*, for forty days and nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you had committed by doing what was evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger. ¹⁹ For I was afraid of the anger and the rage with which the Lord was angry with you so as to destroy you; but the Lord listened to me that time as well. ²⁰ The Lord was also angry enough with Aaron to destroy him; so I also prayed for Aaron at the same time. ²¹ And I took your sinful *thing* which you had made, the calf, and burned it in the fire and crushed it, grinding it thoroughly until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the stream that came down from the mountain.

So I took hold of the two tablets and threw them from my two hands, and smashed them to pieces before your eyes!

In a sense, the breaking of the tablets reflected what Israel had just done. They had broken the covenant in a devastating way.

This could have been the end of God's dealings with Israel except for the intercessory prayers of Moses.

I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you had committed by doing what was evil in the sight of the Lord

The people needed to understand the seriousness of this event so Moses told them how he was affected by their actions.

The Lord was also angry enough with Aaron to destroy him; so I also prayed for Aaron at the same time

Aaron held a lot of responsibility for this rebellion and it was only by God's grace that the priesthood remained with Aaron and his sons.

Verses 22-24

22 "Then at Taberah, at Massah, and at Kibroth-hattaavah you kept provoking the Lord to anger. 23 And when the Lord sent you from Kadesh-barnea, saying, 'Go up and take possession of the land which I have given you,' you rebelled against the command of the Lord your God; you neither trusted Him nor listened to His voice. 24 You have been rebellious toward the Lord since the day I knew you.

22 "Then at Taberah, at Massah, and at Kibroth-hattaavah you kept provoking the Lord to anger.

Moses brings up 3 other times when Israel had provoked the Lord to anger

See timeline 925

Exodus time line			
Exodus	Event	Year 1 - 1446	Place
12:37	The Exodus from Egypt	1-15-01	Rameses
14:21-22	Crossing of the Red Sea		Red Sea
16:1	Manna and quail	3-15-01	The Desert of Sin
17:1	no water, Amalekites defeated		Rephidim
32	Golden Calf	Month 5 or 6	The Desert of Sinai
34	New stone tablets	Month 6 or 7	The Desert of Sinai

Numbers time line			
Numbers	Event	Year 2 - 1445	Place
9	Passover	1-14-02	The Desert of Sinai
1:1	Census	2-1-02	The Desert of Sinai
11:3	People complain about the hardships		Taberah
11:4	People complain about the Manna		Kibroth-hattaavah
12	Miriam and Aaron oppose Moses		Hazereth
14	The people rebel	4th month	At Kadesh
14:44-45	Defeated by Amorites	4th month	Hill country

²³ And when the Lord sent you from Kadesh-barnea, saying, ‘Go up and take possession of the land which I have given you,’ you rebelled against the command of the Lord your God; you neither trusted Him nor listened to His voice.

At Kadesh-barnea the people refused to enter Canaan

This was the climax of Israel's rebellions

See timeline 930

Numbers	Event	Year 2 - 1445	Place
9	Passover	1-14-02	The Desert of Sinai
1:1	Census	2-1-02	The Desert of Sinai
10:11	At Sinai for almost a year	2-20-02	Leave Sinai
11:3	People complain about the hardships		Taberah
11:4	People complain about the Manna		Kibroth-hattaavah
12	Miriam and Aaron oppose Moses		Hazereth
12:16	Arrive at Kadesh-barnea	3-2-02	At Kadesh
13	Explore Canaan	40 days	At Kadesh
14	The people refuse to enter Canaan	4th month	At Kadesh
14:44-45	Defeated by Amorites	4th month	Hill country

These 4 events, in verses 22 thru 24, all took place in the first 16 months after they left Egypt.

Verse 25 - 30

²⁵ “So I fell down before the Lord for the forty days and nights, which I did because the Lord said He would destroy you. ²⁶ And I prayed to the Lord and said, ‘Lord God, do not destroy Your people, Your inheritance, whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand! ²⁷ Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; do not turn Your attention to the stubbornness of this people, or to their wickedness, or their sin. ²⁸ Otherwise, the *people of the* land from which You brought us will say, “Since the Lord was not able to bring them into the land which He had promised them, and since He hated them, He has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness!” ²⁹ Yet they are Your people, and Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your great power and Your outstretched arm.’

²⁵ **“So I fell down before the Lord for the forty days and nights, which I did because the Lord said He would destroy you.**

When the people refused to enter Canaan God was ready to destroy everyone and to begin over again with the descendants of Moses.

But Moses spent 40 days & nights in prayer hoping to resolve this problem.

It seems this fact is seldom mentioned when this story is told in church.

The 40 days & 40 nights appear 3 times in the first 2 years in the wilderness.

See pic 935

Exodus time line			
Exodus	Event	Year 1 - 1446	Place
19:1	Camped in front of the mountain	4th month	The Desert of Sinai
20	The ten commandments		The Desert of Sinai
21-23	Laws and regulations		The Desert of Sinai
24	Covenant confirmed	40 days and nights	The Desert of Sinai
25-31	Tabernacle envisioned		The Desert of Sinai
32	Golden Calf	Month 5 or 6	The Desert of Sinai
34	New stone tablets	Month 6 or 7	40 days and nights
36-39	Building the Tabernacle	5 to 6 months	The Desert of Sinai

Numbers time line			
Numbers	Event	Year 2 - 1445	Place
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
Deut 9:25	Moses pleads with the Lord	40 days & 40 nights	At Kadesh

Lord God, do not destroy Your people, Your inheritance, whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand!

OK Moses, you have made your point. They are God's people not yours. ☺

Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; do not turn Your attention to the stubbornness of this people, or to their wickedness, or their sin

The covenant between God and Israel was based on their obedience to the law.

So Moses wanted God to think about his promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob because Israel as a whole did not trust in the Lord.

Otherwise, the *people of the* land from which You brought us will say, “Since the Lord was not able to bring them into the land which He had promised them, and since He hated them, He has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness!

Moses had several reasons why God should overlook the sin of Israel.

Because if he kills them, the other nations will say God was too weak to finish the job or that God hated Israel and took them out to the wilderness to kill them.

In either scenario God would look bad. The nations would think God was either weak or an Ogre.