

A MOVE...AFTER THIRTY EIGHT YEARS

I. Introduction

Well, it is nice to be with you today for our continuing work in Deuteronomy. As we read in the first four chapters, Moses is giving a historical review for the Israelites. It is something of a preamble to the law that he will soon be announcing. On the whole it is not new but the arrangement is new and since a lot of time has passed since the initial statements (Exodus) memories need to be refreshed and practices need to be reviewed. These introductory chapters set the stage for that as Moses has the eye and heart of the nation. In chapter 2, where we now proceed, he reminds Israel of the journey behind them, actually a preparation for the journey before them. And while he does not discuss much of the wilderness experience, as in Numbers for instance, he does summarize significant things as encouragement for the trip. Our portion, 2:1-23 needs no further outline but you may note a division of material at verse 16 as Moses goes on to recount some of the things that have happened more recently.

II. Discussion

2:1...the call to move out

2:2-3...the direction is by the voice of the Lord

2:4-5...going northward they are to pass the lands of Esaw without causing any grief to those peoples.

2:6...Instructions for buying what is needed

2:7...and they are to remember the provision of God throughout

2:8...passing Mt. Seir, they head for Moab

2:9...orders are given regarding relationships with Moab

2:10-12...reviewing the people who lived in the Moabite territory and who were displaced by "lesser peoples"...the implication is plain...if they had followed God they could have overcome the largest of foes and be comfortably ensconced in the land by now.

2:13...crossing Zered

2:14...a review of the time and a reminder of how they got into this position (it shows up often)

2:15...the hard times were by the hand of the Lord.