SERIES XV LECTURE V

בס"ד

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

- 1. After the incident with the spies, it was decreed that that whole generation should die out? When did this decree come to an end?
- 2. Moshe was told to speak to the rock in order that it produce water. Instead, he hit the rock. Why didn't Moshe follow the original directive?
- 3. Why did Moshe ask the king of Edom to allow him and his people to pass through his land? Did he really believe that he would allow him?
- 4. Aaron died on Mount Hor (*Hor HeHor* Num. 20:28). Yet, in Parshas Ekev (Deut. 10:6) Scripture states that he died in Mosera. Explain.
- 5. Why were Moshe and Aaron denied entry into the Land of Israel?

This and much more will be addressed in the fifth lecture of this series: "Moses and the Conquest of the East Bank".

To derive maximum benefit from this lecture, keep these questions in mind as you listen to the lecture and read through the outline. Go back to these questions once again at the end of the lecture and see how well you answer them.

PLEASE NOTE: This outline and source book were designed as a powerful tool to help you appreciate and understand the basis of Jewish History. Although the lectures can be listened to without the use of the outline, we advise you to read the outline to enhance your comprehension. Use it, as well, as a handy reference guide and for quick review.

This lecture is dedicated to the merit and honor of the Newman Family

THE EPIC OF THE ETERNAL PEOPLE Presented by Rabbi Shmuel Irons

Series XV Lecture #5

MOSES AND THE CONQUEST OF THE EAST BANK

I.

Α.

1) וַיָּבֹאוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּל הָעֵדָה מִדְבַּר צִן בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן וַיֵּשֶׁב הָעָם בְּקְדֵשׁ וַתְּמְת שָׁם מִרְיָם וַתִּקְבֵר שָׁם: וְלֹא הָיָה מַיִם לָעֵדָה וַיִּקְהֲלוּ עַל מֹשֶׁה וְעַל אַהְרֹן: וַיָּרֶב הָעָם עִם מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֵאמֹר וְלוּ גְּוַעְנוּ בִּגְוַע אַחִינוּ לְפְנֵי ד׳: וְלָמָה הֲבֵאתֶם אֶת קְהַל ד׳ אֶל הַמִּדְבָּר הַזֶּה לְמוּת שָׁם אֲנַחְנוּ וּבְעִירֵנוּ: וְלָמָה הָצֶלִיתָנוּ מִמְצְרַיִם לְפָנִי ד׳: וְלָמָה הֲבָאתֶם אֶת קְהַל ד׳ אֶל הַמְּדְבָּר הַזֶּה לְאֹן מְקִנוּ וְנְפֶּוֹן וְרְמוֹן וּמִיִם אַיִּן וְלְמִה הָעֲלִיהָם לַאוֹן מִּפְנֵי הַקְּהָל אֶל פָּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וַיִּפְּלוּ עַל פְּנֵיהֶם וַיֵּרָא כְבוֹד ד׳ אֲלֵיהֶם: במדבר כ:א-ו

Then came the people of Israel, the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month; and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there. And there was no water for the congregation; and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. And the people quarrelled with Moses, and spoke, saying, Would G-d that we had died when our brothers died before the L-rd! And why have you brought up the congregation of the L-rd into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there? And why have you brought us up out of Egypt, to bring us in to this terrible place? This is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink. And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the Tent of Meeting, and they fell upon their faces; and the glory of the L-rd appeared to them. **Numbers 20:1-6**

2) כל העדה מדבר צן – עדה שלמה, שכבר מתו דור המדבר ועתה באו הבנים אל ארץ כנען בחדש הראשון, ושנת הארבעים היה. ודע שאין בתורה כלל שום מעשה או שום נבואה רק בשנה ראשונה ובשנת הארבעים: רבינו בחיי. במדבר. כ:א

The whole congregation, into the desert of Zin: i.e. a congregation that was completely intact, as the generation of the desert had already died out and the children were coming [to the borders of] the land of Canaan on the first month of the fortieth year. You should be aware of the fact that there is no recorded incident or prophecy for the entire period between the first [and second years] and the fortieth year. Rabbainu Bachya, Numbers 20:1

3) וישב העם בקדש – עמדו שם ארבעה חדשים עד חדש אב שבו באו להר ההר ושם מת אהרן ואין זה קדש שנאמר עליו ותשבו בקדש ימים רבים שהרי אותו קדש איל פארן הוא ונקרא קדש ברנע וממנו נשתלחו המרגלים וקדש זה שנאמר וישב העם בקדש הוא במדבר צין בגבול ארץ אדום. חזקוני, במדבר כ:א

And the people abode in Kadesh: They stayed there for a period of four months until the month of Av when they came to Har HeHar, the place where Aaron died. This is not the same Kadesh, regarding which it is written (Deut. 1:46), "So you abode in Kadesh many days," as that Kadesh is identified with El-paran (Gen. 14:6) and was called Kadesh Barnea. From there were the spies sent. This Kadesh, of which it is written (Numbers 20:1), "And the people abode in Kadesh," is in the desert of Zin, on the border with Edom. Chizkuni, Numbers 20:1

ולא היה מים לעדה – מכאן שכל מ' שנה היה להם הבאר בזכות מרים: רש"י במדבר כ:ב

And there was no water for the congregation: From here it is evident that during the entire forty year period, they had the well due to the merit of Miriam. Rashi, Numbers 20:2

לא מקום זרע ותאנה וגו'. הפלא הנה זה ארבעים שנה הולכים במדבר הגדול וסבלו בלי שום (5 תרעומות. והבינו כי לא זהו תכלית נסיעתם עד בואם אל ארץ נושבת. ולמה זה התרעמו עתה. אבל ראוי לדעת דבשנה האחרונה היה סוף הליכות הנסיי בהנהגה נפלאה ההולך לימין משה זרוע תפארת ד׳. ועתה היו עומדים ליכנס לא״י ולהתנהג בהליכות הטבע תחת השגחת ד׳. ע״כ התנהג הקב״ה עמם בשנה זו בדרך הממוצע. וכמו אומנת ילד היונק העומד להגמל מחלב. כבר איזה משך לפני הגמלו מרגלת את הילד מעט מעט באכילת לחם. ומכל מקום לעת הצורך מניקתו עד שהוא נגמל לגמרי. כי קשה להחליף סדר החיים בפעם א׳. כך החל המקום ית׳ להפרישם מן הנס ולהעמידם על הליכות עולם הטבע וללמדם איך יעשו בעת יהיה השגחה לענוש אותם ולמנוע טוב וגשמי השנה ולא יהי עוד כח משה אשר בבקשתו לבד נעשה הכל. והנה כשנפסק המים מן הבאר הבינו ישראל שזהו שלא בתורת עונש על איזה דבר. אלא כדי להרגילם לחיים טבעים. והרי ההכרחי למים ימצאו בקדש. וגדולי הדור שאין דרכם בכך להטריח אחר צרכי הגוף בדרכים כאלה. תהיה השגחה פרטית שלא ישיגו צמאון וכמש"כ בס' שמות ט"ו י"ב ובפ' י"ז ע"ש. ואין זה נס נגלה אלא השגחה נסתרת על יראיו. ומשום הכי המן לא נפסק שהרי א"א לחיות בלי מאכל אף לגדולי הדור. זה היה הבנת העם. וכאשר באמת לא מצא להם מים שבקדש לכל העם ובעירם. התרעמו למה הבאתם את קהל ד' המה גדולי הדור שיכולים לחיות באופן נשגב ממנו שלא ירגישו צמאון. אבל אנחנו שאין אנו כדאים להשגחה זו. אלא בטבע פשוטה ואין מקום להסתפק במים שבקדש לנו ובעירנו ונמות בצמאון. ועוד התרעמו ולמה העליתנו מצרים להביא אותנו אל המקום הרע הזה. מתחלה לא היה לכם להוציא אותנו בדרך אשר לפני בואם לא"י לא נמצא מה לאכול אחר שיכלה ענינים נסיים. ואמרו בלשון ולמה העליתנו. היינו שנהיה בדוקא אנשי מעלה הראוים להשגחה פרטית. ומש"ה היה הריב עם משה ביחוד כמש"כ בספר שמות שם: העמק דבר, במדבר כ:ה

This is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink: It is amazing that during the period of forty years in which they traveled through the great desert, they suffered without complaint. They realized, [however,] that [these wanderings through the desert] weren't a goal in themselves and they would end when they reached a settled area. Why, then, were they complaining just now. It is important to realize that the last year [of their travels] marked the end of the period in which they were being led in a miraculous manner, a manifestation of the [outstreched] arm of G-d's splendor which was at Moshe's right side. Now, as they were poised to enter the Land of Israel and to be led in a seemingly natural manner, under Divine Providence, the Holy One, blessed be He, acted towards them in a way which was midway between the supernatural and the natural forms of Divine Providence, similar to how a baby is weaned from his mother's milk and slowly becomes accustomed to solid food. Nevertheless, the mother still nurses the child when necessary until the baby is entirely weaned, as it is impossible to change one's lifestyle all at once. Similarly, the Omnipresent began to wean them from relying upon miracles and to accustom them to the natural course of the world and to teach them how to act when Divine Providence punishes them, when He withholds the good and the rain, and Moshe will no longer be there to take care of all of their needs through the strength of his prayers. Now when the water ceased coming from the well, Israel understood that it wasn't a punishment for a specific sin, but rather a means to accustom them to living a natural existence. They expected that, [after some effort,] their minimum needs for water would be met in Kadesh. [They also realized] that the Divine Providence would provide water for the spiritual giants of

their generation, as it was not natural for them to toil to fulfill the physical needs of their bodies . . . This would not be accomplished through an open miracle but rather through a hidden Providence for those who fear Him. For that reason, the manna didn't cease, as it would have been impossible for them to survive without food, even for the spiritual giants of that generation. This was the understanding of the people as a whole. But when they actually couldn't find water in Kadesh sufficient to fill the needs of the people and their livestock, they complained, "Why have you brought up the congregation of the L-rd [into this wilderness]," which refers to the spiritual giants of the generation, who can survive in a way which is beyond our reach, i.e. they would [miraculously] not feel thirsty. We, on the other hand, who are not worthy of such [supernatural] Providence, but are only worthy to live in a simple and natural manner, there is not sufficient resources in Kadesh to provide for us and our cattle and we will die of thirst. In addition, they complained, "And why have you brought us up out of Egypt, to bring us in to this evil place? Prior to our arrival in the Land of Israel, you should have never taken us out by way of such a place, where our physical needs would not be met, since the miraculous Providence had come to an end." They used the expression, "And why have you brought us up," i.e. you expected us to reach great heights (be brought up) so as to be worthy of special Divine Providence. This was the cause of the strife specifically with Moshe, as I have written in my commentary to the Book of Exodus. Haamek Davar, Numbers 20:5

B.
נְיַרַבֵּר ד' אֶל מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: קַח אֶת הַמַּשֶׁה וְהַקְהֵל אֶת הָעֵּדָה אַתְּה וְאַהְרֹן אָחִיךְ וְדִבַּרְתֶּם אֶל
הַסֶּלַע לְעֵינֵיהֶם וְנְתַן מֵימִיו וְהוֹצֵאתְ לְהֶם מִים מִן הַסֶּלַע וְהִשְׁקִיתְ אֶת הְעֵדָה וְאֶת בְּעִירָם: וַיִּקַח מֹשֶׁה אֶת הַמַּשֶׁה מִלְפְנֵי ד' בַּאֲשֶׁר צִּוְהוּ: וַיִּקְהְלוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶת הַקְּהָל אֶל פְּנֵי הַסְּלַע וַיֹּאמֶר לְהֶם שִׁמְעוּ נָא הַמֹּים הַמִּים הַמְּלְע הַיָּאה נוֹצִיא לְכֶם מִים: וַיָּרֶם מֹשֶׁה אֶת יְדוֹ וַיַּךְ אֶת הַסֶּלַע בְּמַשֵּהוּ פַּעֲמְיִם וַיֵּצְאוּ מַיִם הַפִּרִים וְהַשְּׁהְת הַעֵּדָה וּבְעִירָם: במדבר כ:ז-יא

And the L-rd spoke to Moses, saying, Take the rod, and gather the assembly together, you, and Aaron your brother, and speak to the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth its water, and you shall bring forth to them water out of the rock; so you shall give the congregation and their beasts drink. And Moses took the rod from before the L-rd, as He commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said to them, Hear now, you rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he struck the rock twice; and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. **Numbers 20:7-11**

1) ודברתם אל הסלע. אין הכונה שידברו עם הסלע ויצוו אותו ליתן מים שהרי אין הסלע בר שמיעה. . . . בילמדנו והובא בי"ש פירוש ודברתם דבר הלכה א' או פרק א' יע"ש. ואנחנו נוסיף לבאר . . . כשנפסק הסלע מליתן מים לא היה משום שכלה הליכות הנס. אלא הוא כמו שעוצר הקב"ה מי מטר בשביל עון הדור. וידוע מנהג ישראל בעת עצירת גשמים מתאספים ברבים למקום אף שלא בבית המקדש מקום קרבנות וגלוי שכינה וראש העם אומר דברים כבושים ואח"כ מתפללים בצבור כמבואר במס' תענית. ורצה הקב"ה אשר משה ואהרן ילמדו את העם היאך יעשו לדורות בא"י ויאמינו שגם בלי כח ועוז של משה אפשר לפעול בתפלת רבים. ע"כ צוה ד' להקהל עדה אל סלע ושם היה השכינה באותה שעה ושמה יגיד משה ואהרן דבר הלכה ומוסר. וגם דבר הלכה מועיל לתפלה כדאי' בתענית פ"ב והיחידים חוזרים ומתענין מאן נינהו יחידים צורבא מרבנן. . . . והיה הרצון שידברו משה ואהרן דבר הלכה ותוכחה ואח"כ יתפללו בצבור לצד הסלע. ובזה ונתן מימיו. הרצון שידברו משה וא מימיו הרגילים ונעשה לטבע יתן. וצוה עוד והוצאת להם מים מן הסלע.

ולכאורה הוא אך כפל לשון ח"ו. וגם השנוי מלשון מימיו למים לא דבר ריק הוא. וגם השנוי ודברתם היינו משה ואהרן והוצאת הוא משה לבדו. אלא הוא אופן אחר שאמר הקב"ה אולי לא יעלה השעה לתורה ותפלה כראוי. וא"כ לא יגיע הטבע ליתן מימיו. מכ"מ לא יעזוב את ישראל בלי מים כלל אלא יעשה נס כדרכו. וע"ז צוהו ליקח את המטה. אבל הודיעו שבזה האופן לא יהיה עוד מימיו שהיו צלולים ורבים אלא יהיה מים וכן היה באמת שלא היו מים טובים כשהיה. וגם לא היו מרובים כאשר יבואר. ולא היה רק לרוות צמאון אותה שעה ולבהמה. ובאשר ידע הקב"ה מראש שיתקלקל הדבר ולא יצליח משה בזה הדרך של תפלת רבים. ע"כ הגיד מראש אחרית הדבר שיקח את המטה: העמק דבר, במדבר כ:ח

Speak to the rock: The meaning [of this verse] is not that they should [literally] speak to the rock and command it to give forth water, as a rock cannot hear. . . . The Midrash Yilamdeinu, which is quoted in the Midrash Yalkut Shimoni, explains that [Moshe and Aaron were told to] speak words of halacha or [repeat] a chapter. As a means of explanation, we would add the following: . . . When the rock ceased giving forth its water, it was not because the miracle had come to an end. Rather, it was similar to when the Holy One, blessed be He, withholds rain due to the sins of the generation. It is well known that the common practice of the people of Israel is, at a time of drought, to gather together in single place, even in an area outside the Bais HaMikdash (Temple), the place of sacrifices and the Shechina, where the leader of the people would first inspire them and subsequently they would all pray together as a community, as is stated in the tractate Taanis. The Holy One, blessed be He, desired that Moshe and Aaron should teach the people the means of how to act throughout all generations in the Land of Israel, convincing them that even without the power and might of Moshe, they too could effect change through communal prayer. For that reason, He commanded them to gather the congregation at the rock. The Divine Presence was there at that time and Moshe and Aaron were to deliver there a talk regarding halacha and mussar (character refinement and inspired conduct). The words of halacha have a beneficial effect on prayer, as is stated in the second chapter of Taanis, "And the special individuals continue to fast." This expression, 'special individuals,' is a descriptive term for Torah scholars. It was [G-d's] will that Moshe and Aaron speak [to them] regarding a matter of halacha, then given them words of rebuke (mussar), followed by communal prayer, facing the rock. With that, the rock would have released its waters. It would not have been a novel occurrence, as the waters that it had produced had become [in a sense, second] nature. In addition, He commanded, "You shall bring forth to them water out of the rock." [At first glance,] it would seem that that phrase was merely redundant, G-d forbid. Also, the change in the expression, "water" from the previously stated, "its water," is not insignificant. Furthermore, there is the change from the plural, "[you plural, referring to Moshe and Aaron] speak to the rock," to, "you [singular i.e. referring to Moshe alone] shall bring forth to them water out of the rock." [The answer is that taking the staff is to be understood] as an alternate way [of producing water]. The Holy One, blessed be He, said that perhaps the time is not ripe to study Torah and pray in a befitting manner. Consequently, the rock would not naturally release its waters. Nevertheless, He wouldn't abandon Israel to be totally without water, but He would make a miracle for them, as is His way. For that reason He commanded Moshe to take the staff. But He informed [Moshe] that through that means the rock wouldn't produce clear and abundant water [i.e. "its water"], but rather just "water". And that is what was actually produced, water that was inferior to water produced in the past. . . . and not as abundant, as we will explain. It was only sufficient to quench their thirst for that moment and for their livestock. Since the Holy One, blessed be He, already knew that they wouldn't rise to the occasion [literally: they would ruin things] and Moshe would not be successful through the approach of communal prayer, He told [Moshe] at the very beginning to take with him the staff. Haamek Davar, Numbers 20:8

(3) שמעו נא המורים. החל להוכיח את העם. ובא לקצף ולא דבר כדרך תוכחה ברכות. אלא ברוגז ובוז לרבים ואמר. המן הסלע הזה נוציא לכם מים. טועים אתם במה שאתם סבורים לעשות נס להוציא מים לא כן הלא זה הסלע כבר נעשה לטבע ואלו לא קלקלתם מעשיכם לא היה נפסק טבעו. ועתה קלקלתם מעשיכם וקפחתם פרנסתכם ואמר משה דברים אלו בכעס עד שנעלמה מנו הלכה ברורה להגיד לרבים ושימצאו אח"כ לב לתפלה כמו בעצירת גשמים. והיינו דתניא בת"כ פ' שמיני על זה הענין של מי מריבה שמתוך כעס בא לכלל טעות. ולא נודע איזה טעות והעלמה היה כאן למשה. ולדברינו מובן שלא היה יכול להגיד הלכה ברורה ע"כ עשה אופן השני לעשות הנס ע"י המטה: העמק דבר, במדבר כ:י

Hear now, you rebels: He began to rebuke the people, [but] this turned into an expression of anger, not in the gentle way rebuke is [effectively] done. He expressed himself to the people, however, with extreme anger and biting criticism and said, "Must we fetch you water out of this rock? You are mistaken to think that an [open] miracle is necessary to extract water from this rock. Not so! Behold that it has already become second nature for this rock [to produce water]. Hadn't you corrupted your actions, its nature wouldn't have ceased. But now you have corrupted your actions and this has led to a cessation of your material support." Moshe said these words angrily and the anger made him forget how to clearly articulate a halacha and teach the people so that they would be in a proper mood to pray, in the same manner [that they are prepared] to pray to end a drought. This is the meaning of the Braiisa in the Toras Kohanim, Parshas Shemini on the subject of the "Waters of Contention" [that stated that the anger made Moshe err and forget a halacha]. The Braiisa does not make it clear, however, the nature of the error or what he exactly forgot. According to our interpretation it is understandable. He wasn't able to articulate any clear halacha and therefore he chose the other approach, to perform the miracle through the staff. Haamek Davar, Numbers 20:10

 \boldsymbol{C}

1) וַיֹּאמֶר ד׳ אֶל מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל אַהָרֹן יַעַן לֹא הֶאֱמַנְתֶּם בִּי לְהַקְדִישֵׁנִי לְעֵינֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְכֵן לֹא תָבִיאוּ אֶת הַקְּהָל הַזֶּה אֶל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לְהֶם: הַמָּה מֵי מְרִיבָה אֲשֶׁר רְבוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת ד׳ וַיִּקְּרֵשׁ בְּם: במדבר כּיִב-יִג

And the L-rd spoke to Moses and Aaron, Because you did not believe Me (foster belief in Me) to sanctify Me in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. This is the water of Meribah, because the people of Israel strove with the L-rd, and He was sanctified in them. **Numbers 20:12-13**

יען לא האמנתם בי. אלו השתמשו בתורה ובתפלה. היה גם אהרן מתפלל וכמו שאמר ד' ודברתם אל הסלע ועתה כאשר לא נעשה כן הלא גם אהרן בכלל החטא וע"ג שאהרן לא בא לכעס מכ"מ נתרשלו ידיו במקום משה. וע"ע להלן כ"ד: להקדישני לעיני בני ישראל. אלו היו עומדים משה ואהרן בתפלה היה נקרא בזה ונקדשתי בתוך בני ישראל שהוא אמירה דבר שבקדושה ברבים כדאיתא במגילה כ"ג. והיו ישראל מאמינים במעלת תפלה ושאני קדוש בתוכם. ועתה לא האמנתם את ישראל בזה: העמק דבר, במדבר כיב

Because you did not believe Me (foster belief in Me): Had they [brought forth water] through Torah and prayer, Aaron, too, would have prayed, as G-d told them, "[You, Moshe and Aaron,] speak towards the rock." And now, because it was not done in that manner, Aaron was included in the sin. Even though Aaron did not become angry, nevertheless, [he was considered partially responsible because he deferred to Moshe and didn't press for Torah and prayer] (literally his hand became weakened in the presence of Moshe). To sanctify Me in the eyes of the people of

Israel: Had Moshe and Aaron stood up to pray this would be considered as (Lev. 22:32), "sanctifying Me in the midst of the people of Israel," as this verse is referring to saying expressions of Divine holiness in public, as is stated in Megillah 23b. Then Israel would believe in the effects of prayer and thereby I would have become sanctified in their midst. Now, [as a result of your actions,] you failed to foster such a belief amongst the people of Israel. **Haamek Davar, Numbers 20:12**

3) אשר רבו בני ישראל את ד'. היינו עם משה שהביאם לזה המקום ע"פ ד'. ונמצא מריבים את ד': ויקדש בם. שנודע בזה כמה סביביו נשערה מאד וה"ז כמו דכתיב בנו"א בקרבי אקדש וכמש"כ שם. העמק דבר, במדבר כייג

Because the people of Israel strove with the L-rd: Technically it was with Moshe, who brought them to that place through the directive of G-d. But in actuality [their] conflict was with G-d Himself. And He was sanctified in them: because it became known how severely He judges [even] those that are closest to Him. It is similar to that which is written regarding Nadav and Abihu (Leviticus 10:3), "I will be sanctified in them that come near to Me," as I explained there. Haamek Davar, Numbers 20:13

ועדיין נשאר לבאר איך אפשר שבעבור דבר קל כזה נגזר עונש כזה על שני שרי צבאות ישראל . . . ועוד שבסדר דברים הזכיר עונש משה וגזרתו בתוך גזרת המרגלים (עיין דברים א:לז) ... שמבואר שנגזרו עליו מיתה בסבת ענין המרגלים ... שמשמע שהיה העונש בעבור ישראל לא בעבור חטא משה גם מלשון הכתוב שאמר יען לא האמנתם בי וכו' לכן לא תביאו את הקהל הזה אל הארץ משמע שעקר כונת הגזרה הזאת היתה כדי שלא יביאו את הקהל אל הארץ . . . שישראל לא היו משה שם היה שמשה במדרשיהם אל הארץ והוא ע"פ מה שאמרו חז"ל במדרשיהם שם היה משה מביא את ישראל אל הארץ היה אז הכבוש שלא ע"י מלחמה רק ע"י ד' שהיה מפיל את אוביהם לפניהם ועוד אמרו שאם היה משה נכנס לארץ היה בונה את המקדש ולא היה נחרב לעולם. ועוד אמרו שאם היה משה נכנס לארץ היתה אז הגאולה הנצחיית המקווה שיהיה לעת"ל, והיה אז ימות המשיח, אולם דבר זה שיהיה אז התקון הכללי המקווה שיהיה באחרית הימים תלוי בתנאי אם היו ישראל שלמים בצדקתם וחזקים באמונתם, והיו כולם ממלכת כהנים וגוי קדוש . . . אבל אחר שחטאו בענין המרגלים שנתברר שאינם שלמים באמונתם וצדקתם לא היה אפשר שמשה יביא אותם לא"י אחר שמאז היו עתידים להיות בשעבוד גליות ושהמקדשות יחרבו מה שאי אפשר אם היה משה מביא אותם אל הארץ . . . ומאז חשב ד' שגם משה לא יכנס לארץ . . . ובכ"ז לא היה גזרה מוחלטת, ואם היו דור באי הארץ שלמים באמונתם ולא היו כאבותם דור סורר ומורה היה אפשר שמשה יביא אותם אל הארץ ושיגיע אז עת התקון הכללי כי לא היה גז"ד שיש עמו שבועה והיה תלוי בהטבת מעשיהם, אבל עתה אחר ענין מי מריבה שרבו את ד' והראו שאינם שלמים באמונתם . . . ראה ד' שאינם למדרגה הגדולה ששני הרועים הא–להיים האלה יביאו אותם אל הארץ . . . ולכן גזר בגז״ד שיש עמו שבועה שמשה ואהרן לא יביאו אותם אל הארץ וזה לא בחטא משה ואהרן רק בסבת חסרון שלמות ישראל, וממילא נסבב מזה מיתת משה ואהרן במדבר כמ"ש ויקציפו על מי מריבה וירע למשה בעבורם. מלבים במדבר כייג

It still remains to be explained, how is it possible that for an insignificant thing like this, such a punishment was decreed against [these] two great leaders of Israel? . . . And furthermore, in Parshas Devarim (Deuteronomy 1:37) the punishment of Moshe is mentioned in conjunction with the decree of the spies. . . . It is evident [from the text] that this punishment was decreed against him as a result of the incident of the spies. . . . It seems [from the wording of the verses] that the real reason for the punishment was because of Israel and not because of Moshe's sin.

Even the language of the verse (Numbers 20:13), "Because you didn't believe in Me (foster belief in Me) . . . you shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them." It seems [from the text] that the essential purpose of this decree was that they shouldn't bring the congregation into the land. . . . because the people of Israel weren't worthy at that time [to have the privilege of having Moshe bringing them into the land. This can be explained on the basis of what our Sages, of blessed memory, have stated in various Midrashim that had Moshe brought them into the land, the conquest would have been effected not through battle but through G-d's making the enemy fall before them. In addition, they said that if Moshe would have brought them into the land, he would have been the one to build the Temple and, as a result, it wouldn't have ever been destroyed. They also said that had Moshe entered the land, the awaited permanent redemption would have occurred and we would have entered the Messianic Age. However, a prior condition for the long awaited tikun klali (the total repair and perfection of the world) to occur is for Israel to be absolutely righteous [in their actions] and strong in their faith, i.e all of them being a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. But after they sinned with the incident of the spies, it became evident that their faith and righteousness was flawed. [Under such circumstances, it wasn't possible for Moshe to bring them into the land of Israel, since they were now destined to experience the subjugation of galus (exile) and the Temples would be destroyed, something that wouldn't have been possible had Moshe brought them into the land. ... Already from that time on, G-d had in mind that Moshe not enter the land. ... Nevertheless, the decree was not irreversible. Had the generation that came into the land been perfect in their faith, not like their fathers who were a generation of rebels, it would hav been possible for Moshe to have brought them into the land and ushered in the era of the tikun klali (the total repair and perfection of the world). This is because the decree [that originally was made regarding Moshe] was not made with an oath but was dependent upon their bettering their actions. But now, after the incident of the water of Meriba (Mei Meriva), when they strove against G-d and showed that their faith was flawed, . . . G-d saw that they weren't on a high enough spiritual level to have the two G-dly shepherds bring them into the land. Consequently, He issued a decree with an accompanying oath that Moshe and Aaron could not bring them to the land. It wasn't because of the sin of Moshe and Aaron, but rather due to the lack of spiritual perfection of the people of Israel. An inevitable result of that decree was that Moshe and Aaron die in the desert, as it says (Psalms 106:32), "And they angered him at the waters of Meribah, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes." Malbim, Numbers 20:13

II. Edom

Α.

1) ד׳ אֶ–להֵינוּ דִּבֶּר אֵלֵינוּ בְּחֹרֵב לֵאמֹר רַב לְכֶם שֶׁבֶת בְּהָר הַזֶּה: פְּנוּ | וּסְעוּ לְכֶם וּבֹאוּ הַר הָאֶמֹרִי וְאֶל כָּל שְׁכֵנִיו בָּצְרָבָה בָהָר וּבַשְּׁפֵלָה וּבַנָּגֶב וּבְחוֹף הַיָּם אֶרֶץ הַכְּנַצְנִי וְהַלְּבָנוֹן עַד הַנָּהָר הַגִּּדֹל נְהַר פְּרְת: רְאֵה נָתַתִּי לִפְנִיכֶם אֶת–הָאָרֶץ בֹּאוּ וּרְשׁוּ אֶת–הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע ד׳ לַאֲבֹתֵיכֶם לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וּלְיַעֲקֹב לתת להם וּלזרעם אחריהם: דברים א:ו-ח

The L-rd our G-d spoke to us in Horeb, saying, You have lived long enough in this mount; Turn, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites, and to all the places near there, to the Arabah, to the hills, and to the lowlands, and to the Negev, and by the sea side, to the land of the Canaanites, and to Lebanon, to the great river, the river Euphrates. Behold, I have set the land before you; **go in and possess** the land which the L-rd swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give to them and to their seed after them. **Deuteronomy 1:6-8**

2) ואל כל שכניו: עמון ומואב והר שעיר: באו ורשו: אין מערער בדבר, ואינכם צריכים למלחמה, אלו לא שלחו מרגלים, לא היו צריכין לכלי זיין: רש"י שם

And to all the places near there: Amon, Moab, and Mount Seir. Go in and possess: Without opposition. You won't need to go to war. Had they not sent out the spies they wouldn't have needed armaments. Rashi, ibid.

And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom, Thus said your brother Israel, You know all the adversity that has befallen us; How our fathers went down to Egypt, and we have lived in Egypt a long time; and the Egyptians dealt harshly with us, and with our fathers; And when we cried to the L-rd, he heard our voice, and sent an angel, and has brought us out of Egypt; and, behold, we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your border; Let us pass, I pray you, through your country; we will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, nor will we drink of the water of the wells; we will go by the king's high way, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed your borders. And Edom said to him, You shall not pass by me, lest I come out against you with the sword. And the people of Israel said to him, We will go by the high way; and if I and my cattle drink of your water, then I will pay for it; I will do you no injury, only pass through by foot. And he said, You shall not go through. And Edom came out against him with much people, and with a strong hand. Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border; therefore Israel turned away from him. Numbers 20:14-20

2) וַיִּשְׁלַח מֹשֶׁה מַלְּאָכִים מִקְּדֵשׁ אֶל מֶלֶּךְ אֶדוֹם: הנה מן הארץ שנתן ד' לאברהם שהם עשר אומות לא ירשו ישראל רק שבע אומות ושלש אומות קיני קנזי וקדמוני לא יירשו עד ימות המשיח, וניתנו עתה לאדום ועמון ומואב שהם מזרע אברהם וממשפחתו, עד ימות המשיח שאז יירשו ישראל את אדום ועמון ומואב, וכבר כתבנו שאם היה משה נכנס לארץ היה אז זמן התקון הכללי . . . ולכן אמר וישב העם בקדש, ר"ל שהתישבו שם בקביעות כי חשבוהו שהיא מחלקם כי קדש בגבול אדום וע"כ התרעמו למה העליתנו ממצרים להביא אותנו אל המקום הרע הזה לא מקום זרע באשר חשבוהו מירושתם טענו הלא מקום רע ואינו ארץ זבת חלב ודבש, וע"כ לא שלח משה מלאכים כי היה נכנס לארץ, אז אמר לו לארץ אדום וכובש אותו, אולם אחר חטא מי מריבה שנגזר על משה שלא יכנס לארץ, אז אמר לו השם בל יתגר בפני עשו כי ירושה לעשו נתתי את הר שעיר כי לא יפול לחלקו של ישראל עד ימות המשיח וע"כ שלח מלאכים אל מלך אדום. מלבי"ם לבמדבר כייד

And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom: Behold, from the land that G-d had given Abraham, which is [the land of] ten nations, Israel only inherited seven nations. The [lands of the] three nations, which are the Kenites, the Kenazites, and the Kadmonites, will not be acquired until the days of Moshiach. These lands were temporarily given to Edom, Amon,

and Moab, who are either directly descended from Abraham or from his family, until the days of Moshiach when Israel will inherit their lands. I have already written that had Moshe entered the land, the era of the tikun klali (the total repair and perfection of the world) would have been ushered in. . . . Therefore, Scripture states (Numbers 20:1), "And the people abode in Kadesh," i.e. they dwelt there in a permanent like way, as they thought that this was part of their destined portion, for Kadesh was on the border of Edom. For that reason they complained (Numbers 20:5), "And why have you made us come out of Egypt, to bring us in to this terrible place? This is no place of seed, [or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink]," for they viewed this area as part of their inheritance [and therefore] they complained that it was a terrible place, not a land dripping with milk and honey [which they had expected]. Consequently, Moshe didn't send out messengers from there, as he was planning to enter the land of Edom and conquer it. It was only after the sin of the water of Meriba (Mei Meriva), however, when it was decreed that Moshe not enter the land. It was then that G-d told him not to contend with Esau, as Mount Seir was given to him as an inheritance, as it would not become an inheritance for Israel until the coming of the days of Moshiach. For that reason, he [now] sent messengers to the king of Edom. Malbim, Numbers 20:14

כ.

ַניֹּאמֶר ד׳ אֵלַי לֵאמֹר: רַב לָכֶם סֹב אֶת הָהָר הַזֶּה פְּנוּ לָכֶם צְפֹנָה: וְאֶת הָעָם צַוּ לֵאמֹר אַתֶּם

(1) נִיֹּאמֶר ד׳ אֵלַי לֵאמֹר: רַב לָכֶם סֹב אֶת הָהָר הַזֶּה פְּנוּ לָכֶם צְפֹנָה: וְאֶת הָעָם בַּוּ לֵאמֹר אַתָּה בְּכָּל אֲחֵיכֶם בְּנֵי עֵשָׁוּ הַיֹּשְׁבִים בְּשֹׁעִיר וְיִיְרְאוּ מִכֶּם וְנִשְׁמַרְתֶּם מְאֹרִ: אַכֶּל תִּשְׁבְּרוּ מֵאִתָּם בַּכֶּסֶף אֶת לְעֵשָׁו נָתַתִּי אֶת הַר שֹעִיר: אֹכֶל תִּשְׁבְּרוּ מֵאִתָּם בַּכֶּסֶף וּשְׁתִיתֶם: פִּי ד׳ אֱלֹהֶיךּ בַּרְךְּ בְּכֹל מַעֲשֵׁה יָדֶךְ יָדַע לֶכְתְּךְ אֶת הַבּר הַגָּדֹל הַזֶּה זֶה וְאַרְבָּים שָׁנָה ד׳ אֱלֹהֶיךְ עִפֶּךְ לֹא חָסַרְתְּ דְּבָר: וַנַּעֲבֹר מֵאֶת אַחִינוּ בְנֵי עֲשָׁוּ הַיִּשְׁבִים בִּבַרה מִאֶּלִת וּמַעֵּצִיֹן גָּבֶר וַנַּפֵּן וַנַּעַבֹר דֵּרֶךְ מִדְבָּר מוֹאָב: דברים בּבּ-ח

And the L-rd spoke to me, saying, You have wandered around this mountain long enough; turn northward. And command the people, saying, You are to pass through the border of your brothers, the sons of Esau, who live in Seir; and they shall be afraid of you; take you good heed to yourselves therefore; Contend not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given Mount Seir to Esau for a possession. You shall buy food from them for money, that you may eat; and you shall also buy water from them for money, that you may drink. For the L-rd your G-d has blessed you in all the works of your hand; he knows your walking through this great wilderness; these forty years the L-rd your G-d has been with you; you have lacked nothing. And when we passed by our brothers, the sons of Esau, who lived in Seir, through the way of the Arabah from Elath, and from Ezion-Geber, we turned and passed by the way of the wilderness of Moab. **Deuteronomy 2:2-8**

באמת ידע משה היטב כי לא יאבה מלך אדום כמו שאמר לו ד' כי לא אתן לכם מארצו עד מדרך כף רגל. אבל משום שאמר ד' למשה וייראו מכם ונשמרתם מאד (דברים ב') והיה בזה המצוה להשמר שלא ייראו ויהיו בטוחים שלא בכח ישראל לעבור עליהם בע"כ ע"כ עשה משה זה השליחות כדי שיבין מלך אדום שתלוי ברצונו. וכיון שענה מלך אדום פן בחרב אצא לקראתך. ידע משה שסר פחד ישראל ממנו. ושוב לא שלח אליו. אבל בני ישראל הוסיפו לנסות ומש"ה לא רצה משה לשלח אנשי ישראל שמא יראו השלוחים כמה המה נפחדים ונמוגים כאשר כן היה באמת. והיו ישראל מתאמצים ללכת בלי פחד מחרב אדום. והיה צריך למשה להלוך נגד רוחם. ע"כ ראה לשלוח מאוה"ע שלא שמו לב כי אם לדעת תשובת המלך. והיו סבורים ישראל שבאמת לבם ברי עליהם. ושוב לא עלה על לב להלוך בע"כ: העמק דבר, במדבר כ:יד

Moshe really knew quite well that the king of Edom would not agree [to his request], as G-d had told him (Deuteronomy 2:5), "[Contend not with them;] I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth." The reason he sent them, however, is because G-d had told Moshe (ibid. 4), "They shall be afraid of you; take you good heed to yourselves therefore," i.e. you are commanded to take heed and to watch yourselves not to cause them [continued] fear [and anxiety], so that they be secure in the fact that it is not within the power of Israel to pass through their borders against their will. Consequently, Moshe sent those messengers in order that the king of Edom understand that the matter is dependent on his will. And since the king of Edom subsequently responded (Numbers 20:18), "Lest I come out against you with the sword," Moshe became convinced that they were no longer afraid of Israel and he stopped sending any more messengers. Now since [Moshe knew that] the people of Israel would continue to try [his patience], he didn't want to send messengers from Israel, lest they would see how frightened and terrified [the people of Edom] were, as was the case, and would prevail upon the people of Israel to press on and travel directly through the land of Edom without fear of battle (lit. the sword of Edom) and Moshe would be forced to contend with them. Moshe sent, therefore, non Jewish messengers as they would only be concerned with relating the reply of the king [and not the psychological state of the people of Edom], and Israel would continue to be under the mistaken notion that the people of Edom were fearless and would therefore not entertain the idea to travel through their land against their will. Haamek Davar, Numbers 20:14

III. The Death of Aaron

ח.

ַנִּיּסְעוּ מִקְּדֵשׁ נַיָּבֹאוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּל הָעֵדָה הֹר הָהָר: נַיּאמֶר ד׳ אֶל מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל אַהְרֹן בְּהֹר הָהָר עַל גְּבוּל

אָרֶץ אֱדוֹם לֵאמֹר: יֵאָסֵף אַהְרֹן אֶל עַמְּיו כִּי לֹא יָבֹא אֶל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נְתַתִּי לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַל אֲשֶׁר מְרִיתֶם

אָת פִּי לְמֵי מְרִיכָה: קַח אֶת אַהְרֹן וְאֶת אֶלְעָזָר בְּנוֹ וְהַעַל אֹתָם הֹר הָהָר: וְהַפְּשֵׁט אֶת אַהְרֹן אֶת בְּגָדִיו וְיַּעְם מֹשֶׁה בָּאְשֶׁר צְּוָה ד׳ וַיַּעְלוּ אֶל הֹר הָהָר לְעִינִי בְּנֹי וְיַבְּלְּה אָת אֶלְעָזָר בְּנוֹ וַיִּמְת אַהְרֹן שָׁם בְּרֹאשׁ הְהָר לְעִינִי בְּל הָעֵדְה: וַיִּפְשֵׁט מֹשֶׁה אֶת אַהְרֹן אֶת בְּגְדִיו וַיִּלְבֵשׁ אֹתָם אֶת אֶלְעָזָר בְּנוֹ וַיָּמְת אַהְרֹן שָׁם בְּרֹאשׁ הָהְר נְיֵבְר מֹשֶׁה וְאֶלְעָזָר מִן הָהָר: וַיִּרְאוּ כָּל הָעֵדְה כִּי גָוַע אַהְרֹן וַיִּבְכּוּ אֶת אַהְרֹן שְׁלשִׁים יוֹם כֹּל בֵּית יִשְׂרְאֵל: במדבר כ:כב–כט

And the people of Israel, the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh, and came to Mount Hor. And the L-rd spoke to Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor, by the border of the land of Edom, saying, Aaron shall be gathered to his people; for he shall not enter into the land which I have given to the people of Israel, because you rebelled against my word at the water of Meribah. Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up to Mount Hor; And strip Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron shall be gathered to his people, and shall die there. And Moses did as the L-rd commanded; and they went up to Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. And Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount; and Moses and Eleazar came down from the mount. And when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, they mourned for Aaron thirty days, all the house of Israel. Numbers 20:22-29

B. וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל נָסְעוּ מִבְּאֵרֹת בְּנֵי יַעֲקָן מוֹסֵרָה שָׁם מֵת אַהְרֹן וַיִּקְּבֵר שָׁם וַיְכַהֵן אֶלְעָזָר בְּנוֹ תַּחְתִּיו: מִשָּׁם נָסְעוּ הַגֻּרְגֹּרָה וּמִן הַגִּרְגֹּרָה יָטְבָתָה אֶבֶץ נַחֲלֵי מִיִם: דברים יוּו־ז And the people of Israel took their journey from Beeroth Bnei-Jaakan to Mosera; there Aaron died, and there he was buried; and Eleazar his son ministered in the priest's office in his place. From there they journeyed to Gudgodah; and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land of streaming brooks. **Deuteronomy 10:6-7**

2) וַיִּסְעוּ מֵחַשְׁמֹנָה וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּמֹסֵרוֹת: וַיִּסְעוּ מִמֹּסֵרוֹת וַיַּחֲנוּ בִּבְנֵי יַעֲקָן: וַיִּסְעוּ מִבְּרֹנָה בְּיִסְעוּ מִמֹּסֵרוֹת: וַיִּסְעוּ מִנְּבְרֹנָה: וַיִּסְעוּ מֵעְבְרֹנָה: וַיִּסְעוּ מֵעֶבְרֹנָה בְּיִסְעוּ מֵעֶבְרֹנָה בְּיִסְעוּ מֵעֶבְרֹנָה בְּיִסְעוּ מַעֶבְרֹנָה בְּיִסְעוּ מַעֶבְרֹנָה בְּיִסְעוּ מַעֶבְיֹן גָּבֶר וַיִּחֲנוּ בְּהָר הָהָר צִן הִוּא מְדֵשׁ: וַיִּסְעוּ מִקְּדֵשׁ וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּהֹר הָהָר בְּקְצֵה אָרֶץ מָצְרִן הַכּּהֵן אֶל הֹר הָהָר עַל פִּי ד' וַיְּמְת שָׁם בִּשְׁנִת הָאַרְבָּעִים לְצֵאת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מָצְל מִנְה בְּמִתוֹ בְּמֹר הָהָר וַיִּחֲנוּ מֵאֶבְיִים בַּחֹבֶי מְעָרְ בְּבְּר וְחִנְּא יְשֵׁבְר וְהוּא יִשֵׁב בַּנָּגֶב בְּאֶרץ כְּנָען בְּבֹא בְּנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּסְעוּ מֵהֹר הָהָר וַיַּחֲנוּ בִּצְלמנָה וַיְּחָנוּ בִּפּוּנֹן וַיְּחֲנוּ בִּאֹבְר לֹג:ל-מֵג בִּדְבר לֹג:ל-מֵג

And they departed from Hashmonah, and camped in Moseroth. And they departed from Moseroth, and camped in Bnei-Jaakan. And they moved from Bnei-Jaakan, and camped in Horhagidgad. And they went from Horhagidgad, and camped in Jotbathah. And they moved from Jotbathah, and camped in Ebronah. And they departed from Ebronah, and camped in Ezion-Geber. And they moved from Ezion-Geber, and camped in the wilderness of Zin, which is Kadesh. And they moved from Kadesh, and camped in Mount Hor, in the edge of the land of Edom. And Aaron the priest went up to Mount Hor at the commandment of the L-rd, and died there, in the fortieth year after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the first day of the fifth month. And Aaron was a hundred and twenty three years old when he died in Mount Hor. And king Arad the Canaanite, who lived in the Negev in the land of Canaan, heard of the coming of the people of Israel. And they departed from Mount Hor, and camped in Zalmonah. And they departed from Zalmonah, and camped in Punon. And they departed from Punon, and camped in Oboth. Numbers 33:30-43

C.
 נִישְׁמַע הַפְּנַעֲנִי מֶלֶךְ עֲרָד ישֵׁב הַנֶּגֶב כִּי בָּא יִשְׂרָאֵל דֶּרֶךְ הָאֲתָרִים וַיִּלְּחֶם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשְׁבִּי שָׁבִּי בָּא יִשְׂרָאֵל דֶרָ הְאָרִים הַיָּלְחֶם בְּיִשְׁמַע ד׳ בְּקוֹל הַ בְּקוֹל הַ יְשְׂרָאֵל נַדֶר לַד׳ וַיִּאמַר אָם נָתֹן תִּתֵּן אֶת הָעָם הַנָּיה בְּיָדִי וְהַחֲרַמְתִּי אֶת עֲרִיהֶם: וַיִּשְׁמַע ד׳ בְּקוֹל יַיְבְרָא שֵׁם הַפְּקוֹם חְרְמָה: במדבר כא:א-ג

And when king Arad the Canaanite, who lived in the Negev, heard tell that Israel came by the way of Atarim; then he fought against Israel, and took some of them prisoners. And Israel vowed a vow to the L-rd, and said, If you will indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities. And the L-rd listened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities; and he called the name of the place Hormah. **Numbers 21:1-3**

D.
ובני ישראל נסעו מבארות בני יעקן מוסרה. מה ענין זה לכאן, ועוד וכי מבארות בני יעקן נסעו ובני ישראל נסעו מבארות בני יעקן מוסרה. מה ענין זה לכאן, ועוד וכי מבארות בני יעקן שנאמר ויסעו ממוסרות וגו' (במדבר לג, לא.), ועוד שם מת אהרן, והלא בהר ההר מת, צא וחשוב ותמצא שמונה מסעות ממוסרות להר ההר, אלא אף זו מן התוכחה, ועוד עשיתם זאת, כשמת אהרן בהר ההר לסוף ארבעים שנה ונסתלקו ענני כבוד, יְרֵאתֶם לכם ממלחמת מלך ערד, וּנְתַתֶּם ראש לחזור למצרים, וחזרתם לאחוריכם שמונה מסעות עד בני יעקן ומשם למוסרה, שם נלחמו לכם בני לוי והרגו מכם ואתם מהם, עד שהחזירו אתכם בדרך חזרתכם, ומשם חזרתם הגדגדה הוא חר הגדגד: ומן הגדגדה וגו'. ובמוסרה עֲשִיתֶם אֵבֶל כבד על מיתתו של אהרן שגרמה לכם זאת, ונדמה לכם כאילו מת שם. וסמך משה תוכחה זו לשבירת הלוחות, לומר

שקשה מיתתן של צדיקים לפני הקב"ה כיום שנשתברו בו הלוחות, ולהודיעך שהוקשה לו מה שאמרו נתנה ראש לפרוש ממנו. כיום שעשו בו את העגל: רש"י. דברים יוו-ז

And the people of Israel took their journey from Beeroth Bnei-Jaakan to Mosera: What relation does this have here (in the account of the Golden Calf and the breaking of the first set of the tablets of the Covenant)? And furthermore, did they journey from Beeroth Bnei-Jaakan to Mosera? It was from Mosera that they came to Bnai Jaakan as it is stated (Num. 33:31), "And they departed from Moseroth, and camped in Bnei-Jaakan. And furthermore [it is stated (Deut. 10:6)], there Aaron died. But didn't [Aaron] die on Mount Hor? Go out and make the calculation and you will find eight stages from Moseroth to Mount Hor. This, however, is part of the rebuke [that Moshe was rebuking the people of Israel before he died], i.e. you also were guilty of the following: When Aaron died on Mount Hor at the end of the forty years, and the clouds of glory departed, you were afraid of war with the king of Arad and you appointed a leader to return to Egypt and you turned around backwards eight stages to Benejaakan, and from there to Mosera. There the sons of Levi battled against you and slew some of you, and you slew some of them, until they forced you to return back the same way that you fled, and from there you returned to Gudgod which is Hor-hagiddad (Numbers 33:32). And from Gudgod etc. And in Mosera you made a great mourning over the death of Aaron which caused this [tragedy] to you, and it seemed to you as though he had died there. And Moshe adjoined this rebuke to the breaking of the tablets to indicate that the death of the righteous is difficult before the Holy One, blessed be He, like the day in which the tablets were broken, and to inform you that it was comparable to Him that which they said, "Let us appoint a leader," to depart from Him, as the day in which they made the Golden Calf. Rashi, Deuteronomy 10:6-7

E.

נראה שאחר שעלו העדה ההר וראו כי גוע אהרן לא קברוהו תכף כי רצו להספידו תחלה בפניו

כהלכה וע"כ לא נזכר הקבורה בהר ההר כי לא נקבר שם, ובתוך כך התחיל הכנעני להלחם בם וחזרו

שמונה מסעות לאחור שמן הר ההר עד יעקן ומשם למוסרה הם שמונה מסעות ולקחו את מטתו של

אהרן עמהם באשר יראו שהכנענים יתעוללו בו והביאוהו למוסרה ושם קברוהו, ומשם חזרו אל הר

ההר ונלחמו בכנעני ויחרימו את עריהם, א"כ מ"ש שם מת אהרן ויקבר שם אמר כן מצד הקבורה

ההר ונלחמו בכנעני ויחרימו על הגוף שעז"א שם מת אהרן ושם קברוהו וספר שבכו את אהרן כל

בית ישראל כי ראו ההיזק שהגיע להם במיתתו . . . והוצרכו לחזור לאחוריהם ועי"ז הרגישו כלם

במיתתו. מלבים. במדבר כיכט

It seems that after the entire congregation had gone up to the mountain and saw that Aaron had expired, they [decided not to] immediately bury him, as they wanted to eulogize him in his presence, as is proper. For that reason, there is no mention that he was buried on Mount Hor, for [in truth] he wasn't buried there. In the midst of all of this, the Canaanites began to wage war against them and they were forced to retreat eight stages, from Mount Hor to Jaakan and from there to Mosera; all tolled eight stages. And they took the bier of Aaron with them, as they were afraid that [the enemy] would desecrate the body, and they brought [Aaron] to Mosera, where they buried him. From there they returned to Mount Hor and went out to do battle with the Canaanites and [eventually] destroyed their cities. Accordingly, the statement, "there Aaron died, and there he was buried," is actually only referring to his burial. . . . [In addition, only at Mosera] were the effects of death evident on the body. Regarding this did Scripture say (Duet. 10:6), "there Aaron died, and there he was buried." [Scripture] relates that the entire house of Israel cried [over his death,] because they saw the damage that occurred to them in the aftermath of his death. . . . and they were forced to retreat. Through this did they all feel his death. Malbim, Numbers 20:29

IV. Moab

A.
וַנַּעֲבֹר מֵאֵת אַחֵינוּ בְנֵי עֵשָׂו הַיּשְׁבִים בְּשֵׂעִיר מְדֶּרֶךְ הְעֲרָבָה מֵאֵילַת וּמֵעֶצְיֹן נְּכֶר וַנַּפֶּן וַנַּעֲבֹר (זְּבֶּר מֹאָל בִּנִי מַאָּר ד׳ אַלֵי אַל תְּצַר אֶת מוֹאָב וְאַל תִּתְגָּר בָּם מִלְחָמָה כִּי לֹא אֶתֵן לְךְּ מֵאַרְצוֹ יֻרְשָׁה בִּי לִנְט נָתַתִּי אֶת עָר יֻרְשָׁה: הָאָמִים לְפָנִים יְשְׁבוּ בָה עַם נְּדוֹל וְרֵב וָרָם כַּעֲנָקִים: רְפָאִים יִקְרְאוּ לְהֶם אֵמִים: וּבְשֵעִיר יִשְׁבוּ הַחֹרִים לְפָנִים וּבְנִי עֲשָׁו יִירְשׁוּם וַיַּשְׁמִידוּם מְפְנֵים וַבְּעֲבִי עַשְּוֹ יִירְשוּוּם וַיַּשְׁמִידוּם מְפְנֵים וַיְּשְׁבוּ תַּחְתָּם כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יִשְׂרָאוּ לְאֶרֶץ יֻרְשָׁתוֹ אֲשֶׁר נְתַן ד׳ לְהֶם: עַתָּה קְמוּ וְעִבְרוּ לֶכֶם אֶת מַקֹרב הַמַּחְנָה עַבְּרְנוּ אֶת נַחַל זָרֶד: וְהַיָּמִים אְשֶׁר הָלַכְנוּ וֹ מִקְּרֵב הַמַּחְנֶה עַבְּנְעֵע עַד אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּר יִנְם יִרְ דִי הְנִים בִּרְנוּ שָׁר בְּרֵב בַּחְבוֹי בִּיחְיִבְם בִּיְבְירוֹ אָת נַחַל זָרֶד: וְהַיָּמִים אְשֶׁר הְלַכְנוּ וֹ מְקְרֵב הַמַּחְנֶה בַּבְּעֲעֵי בִי אְשָׁר בְּבְּעָב ד׳ לְהָם: וְנַם יִד ד׳ הְיְתָה בְּם הֹשְׁרְב הִמּחנה עִד תּם כָּל הַדּוֹר אַנְשֵׁי הַמִּלְחָמָה מִקְּרֶב הַמַּחְתָּה בְּלֵב בִּים הַמְלְחָב המּחנה עד תּמִם: ויהי כאשׁר תּמּוּ כּל אנשׁי המּלחמה למוּת מקרב המחנה עד תּמם: ויהי כאשׁר תּמּוּ כּל אנשׁי המלחמה למוּת מקרב המחנה עד תּמם: ויהי כאשׁר תּמּוּ כּל אנשׁי המּלְחַמָה לַבְי בִּחַ בִּים בִּחַבְים בִּחִב בִּים בִּים בְּיִבּים בְּבָּים בְּיִבְּים בְּיבּבְּים בְּיִים בְּיבִּים בְּיבִים בִּיִבְים בְּיבּב בִּים בְּיִבְיִים בְּיבְּים בְּבְיב בִּים בְּיב בְּיִים בְּיבְּים בְּיבְּים בְּיִב בְּים בְּבְּב בִּים בְּיִב בְּים בְּיִם בְּיִם בְּיִים בְּיִבְּעִי בְיִב בִּים בְּים בְּיִבְים בְּבְּים בְּיבְּב עִיב בְּיב בִּים בְּבְים בְּבְּב בִּים בְּבְים בְּבְיב בְּים בְּיִבְים בְּיבְים בְּבְּב בְּבִי בְּבְּבְּים בְּבְּבְּב בְּב בְּב בְּיב בְּיב בְּיב בְּיב בִים בְּיב בִים בְּים בְּבְים בְּיב בְּיוּב בְּיוּים בְּיבְיבְּים בְּבְּבְים בְּיבְּים בְּיבְּיב בְּים בְּבְּיבוּים בְּבְּבְּבְּבְּב בְּבְּבְּב בְּבְּים בְּיבְּים בְּבְּב בְּבְּב בְּבְבְּים בְּיבְּיבְים בְּיבְּים בְּיבְּים בְּבְים בְּבְּבְּים בְּבְּים

And when we passed by our brothers, the sons of Esau, who lived in Seir, through the way of the Arabah from Elath, and from Ezion-Geber, we turned and passed by the way of the wilderness of Moab. And the L-rd said to me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle; for I will not give you of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar to the sons of Lot for a possession. The Emim lived there in times past, a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakim; Who also were considered Refaim, like the Anakim; but the Moabites call them Emim. The Horim also lived in Seir formerly; but the sons of Esau succeeded them, when they had destroyed them from before them, and lived in their place; as Israel did to the land of his possession, which the L-rd gave to them. Now rise up, said I, and go over the brook Zered. And we went over the brook Zered. And the time from our leaving Kadesh-Barnea, until we came over the brook Zered, was thirty eight years; until all the generation of the men of war had perished from the camp, as the L-rd swore to them. For indeed the hand of the L-rd was against them, to destroy them from the camp, until they had perished. So it came to pass, when all the men of war had perished and died from among the people, **Deuteronomy 2:8-16**

(דף תנראה עפמ"ש בירושלמי סוף תענית ובמד' איכה הובא בתוס' תענית ורשב"ם ב"ב (דף קכ"א) שבשנה אחרונה לא ידעו ישראל שנתבטלה הגזרה ולא נודע להם עד ט"ו באב, וא"כ כאן אמר זה לפי האמת שאז היו עדה השלמה, ולקמן אמר זה שבשבט ידעו זה כל ישראל ולפי שמקדש שלח מלאכים אל מלך אדום ורצה לכנס לארץ שזה לא היה אפשר בעוד הגזרה קיימת אמר שלפי האמת אז בטלה הגזרה, ואפשר משה ידע זה רק ישראל לא זאת עד ט"ו באב. מלבי"ם במדבר כ:א

It seems, based upon the Talmud Yerushalmi at the end of Taanis and the Midrash Eichah, quoted in Tosefos Taanis (30b) and in Rashbam Bava Basra (121a), that in the last year the people of Israel were not aware that the decree had ceased until the fifteenth of Av. Consequently, here (Numbers 20:1), it describes the situation i.e. the entire congregation [came to Kadesh on the first of Nissan] as it really was. Further on, in the month of Shevat, [when Moshe addressed the people and began to finish the Torah,] [the Torah] states this fact because by then all of Israel were aware of this. Because Moshe sent messengers to the king of Edom, as he wanted to enter the land, and this would not have been possible as long as the decree was in force, [it was necessary] to state the fact that the decree ceased. It is possible that Moshe was aware of this, but the people of Israel were not aware of this until the fifteenth of Av. Malbim, Numbers 20:1

B.
נְיְדַבֵּר ד׳ אֵלַי לֵאמֹר: אַתָּה עֹבֵר הַיּוֹם אֶת גְּבוּל מוֹאָב אֶת–עָר: וְקְרַבְתָּ מוּל בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן אַל תְּצָרִם וְאַל חִיּבַר ד׳ אֵלַי לֵא אַתֵּן מֵאֶרֶץ בִּנִי עַמּוֹן לְךְּ יִרְשָׁה כִּי לְבְנֵי לוֹט נְתַתִּיהְ יַרְשָׁה: דברים בּיִז-יט

And the L-rd spoke to me, saying, You are to pass over through Ar, the border of Moab, this day; And when you come near opposite the sons of Ammon, harass them not, nor contend with them; for I will not give you of the land of the sons of Ammon any possession; because I have given it to the sons of Lot for a possession. **Deuteronomy 2:17-19**

C.
היסְעוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּאֹבֹת: וַיִּסְעוּ מֵאֹבֹת וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּעִי הָעֲבָרִים בַּמִּדְבָּר אֲשֶׁר עַל פְּנֵי מוֹאָב מִמְּזְרִי הָשָׁמְשׁ: מִשֶּׁב נָסְעוּ וַיַּחֲנוּ מֵעֵבֶר אַרְנוֹן אֲשֶׁר בַּמִּדְבָּר הַיֹּצֵא מִגְּבֻל הָאֱמֹרִי הַשָּׁמְשׁ: מִשְׁם נָסְעוּ וַיַּחֲנוּ מֵעֵבֶר אַרְנוֹן אֲשֶׁר בַּמִּדְבָּר הַיֹּצֵא מִגְּבֻל הָאֱתֹּ בְּסִפֶּר מִלְחֲמֹת ד' אֶת וְהַב בְּסוּפָה וְאֶת הַנְּיִם אַרְנוֹן גְבוּל מוֹאָב הַנְּחָלִים אֲשֶׁר נָטָה לְשֶׁבֶת עָר וְנִשְׁעַן לִגְבוּל מוֹאָב: וּמִשְּׁם בְּאֵרה הִוֹא הַבְּאֵר הְנִים אַרְנוֹן: וְאָשֶׁד הַנְּחָלִים אֲשֶׁר נָטָה לְשֶׁבֶת עָר וְנִשְׁעַן לִגְבוּל מוֹאָב: וּמִשְׁם בְּאֵרה הִוֹא הַבְּאֵר אֲנִוּ אֲשֶׁר אָמֵר ד' לְמֹשֶׁה אֱסֹף אֶת—הָעָם וְאֶתְּנָה לְהֶם מִיִם: אָז יִשִּׁיר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶתהַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת עֲלִי בְּאֵר וְנִישְׁרָבְל בְּאֵר חַפְּרוּה שָׁרִים כְּרוּה וְּדִיבִי הָעֶם בְּמְחֹקֵק בְּמְחְעֵנֹתְם וּמִמִּדְבָּר מַתְּנָה: וּמִבְּמוֹת הַגִּיִץ אֲשֶׁר בְּשְׂבֵה מוֹאָב רֹאשׁ הַפִּסְגָּה וְנִשְׁקְפָּה עַלְפְּנֵי הַיְשִׁימֹן: במדבר הַיִּים בֹּיִלְיאֵל בְּמוֹת: וּמְבָּמוֹת הַגִּיְא אֲשֶׁר בִּשְׂבֵה מוֹאָב רֹאשׁ הַפִּסְגָּה וְנִשְׁקְפָה עַלְפְּנֵי הַיְשִׁימֹן: במדבר כּאִיּר.

And the people of Israel set forward, and camped in Oboth. And they journeyed from Oboth, and camped at Ijeabarim, in the wilderness which is before Moab, toward the sunrise. From there they moved, and camped in the valley of Zared. From there they moved, and camped on the other side of Arnon, which is in the wilderness that comes out of the borders of the Amorites; for Arnon is the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites. Therefore it is said in the Book of the Wars of the L-rd, Vahef in Sufa and in the brooks of Arnon, And at the stream of the brooks that goes down to the dwelling of Ar, and lies upon the border of Moab. And from there they went to Beer; that is the well of which the L-rd spoke to Moses, Gather the people together, and I will give them water. Then Israel sang this song, Spring up, O well; sing you to it; The princes dug the well, the nobles of the people excavated, with the scepter, with their poles. And from the wilderness they went to Mattanah; And from Mattanah to Nahaliel; and from Nahaliel to Bamoth; And from Bamoth in the valley that is in the country of Moab, to the top of Pisgah, which looks toward Jeshimon. Numbers 21:1-20

V. Sichon

ח.
 ח.

And Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, saying, Let me pass through your land; we will not turn into the fields, or into the vineyards; we will not drink of the waters of the well; but we will go along by the king's high way, until we are past your borders. And Sihon

would not allow Israel to pass through his border; but Sihon gathered all his people together, and went out against Israel into the wilderness; and he came to Jahaz, and fought against Israel. And Israel struck him with the edge of the sword, and possessed his land from Arnon to Jabbok, to the sons of Ammon; for the border of the sons of Ammon was strong. And Israel took all these cities; and Israel lived in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all its villages. For Heshbon was the city of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab, and taken all his land out of his hand, to Arnon. Therefore those who speak in proverbs say, Come to Heshbon, let the city of Sihon be built and prepared; For there is a fire gone out of Heshbon, a flame from the city of Sihon; it has consumed Ar of Moab, and the lords of the high places of Arnon. Woe to you, Moab! you are undone, O people of Kemosh; he has given his sons as fugitives, and his daughters, into captivity to Sihon king of the Amorites. We have shot at them; Heshbon is perished even to Dibon, and we have laid them waste even to Nophah, which reaches to Medeba. Thus Israel lived in the land of the Amorites. And Moses sent to spy out Jaazer, and they took its villages, and drove out the Amorites who were there. Numbers 21:21-32

Rise, take your journey, and pass over the brook Arnon; behold, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land; begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle. This day will I begin to put the dread of you and the fear of you upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of you. And I sent messengers out of the wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying, Let me pass through your land; I will go along by the high way, I will neither turn to the right hand nor to the left. You shall sell me food for money, that I may eat; and give me water for money, that I may drink; only I will pass through on foot; Like the sons of Esau who live in Seir, and the Moabites who live in Ar, did to me; until I shall pass over the Jordan to the land which the L-rd our G-d gives us. But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him; for the L-rd your G-d hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that He might deliver him into your hand, as is apparent this day. And the L-rd said to me, Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land before you; begin to possess, that you may inherit his land. Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to fight at Jahaz. And the L-rd our G-d delivered him before us; and we struck him, and his sons, and all his people. And we took all his cities at that time, and completely destroyed the men, and the women, and the

little ones, of every city, we left none to remain; Only the cattle we took for a booty to ourselves, and the plunder of the cities which we took. From Aroer, which is by the edge of the brook of Arnon, and from the city that is by the brook, as far as Gilead, there was not one city too strong for us; the L-rd our G-d delivered all to us; Only to the land of the sons of Ammon you did not come, nor to any place of the brook Jabbok, nor to the cities in the mountains, nor to whatever the L-rd our G-d forbade us. **Deut. 2:24-37**

VI. Og

A. וַיִּפְנוּ וַיִּעֲלוּ דֶרֶךְ הַבָּשָׁן וַיִּצֵא עוֹג מֶלֶךְ הַבָּשָׁן לִקְרָאתָם הוּא וְכָל עַמּוֹ לַמִּלְחָמָה אֶדְרֶעִי: וַיֹּאמֶר ד׳ אֶל מֹשֶׁה אַל תִּירָא אֹתוֹ כִּי בְיָדְךְ נָתַתִּי אֹתוֹ וְאֶת כָּל עַמּוֹ וְאֶת אַרְצוֹ וְעָשִׁיתָ לוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשִׁיתְ לְסִיחֹן מֶלֶךְ הְאֶמֹרִי אֲשֶׁר יוֹשֵׁב בְּחֶשְׁבּוֹן: וַיַּכּוּ אֹתוֹ וְאֶת בָּנִיו וְאֶת כָּל עַמּוֹ עַד בִּלְתִּי הִשְׁאִיר לוֹ שָׂרִיד וַיִּירְשׁוּ אֶת–אַרְצוֹ: וַיִּסְעוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּחַנוּ בִּעַרְבוֹת מוֹאָב מֵעֶבֶר לְיַרְבֵּן יְרַחוֹ: במדבר כאּלג–לה, כב:א אֶת–אַרְצוֹ: וַיִּסְעוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּחַנוּ בְּעַרְבוֹת מוֹאָב מֵעבֶר לְיַרְבֵּן יִרְחוֹ:

And they turned and went up by the way of Bashan; and Og the king of Bashan went out against them, he, and all his people, to the battle at Edrei. And the L-rd said to Moses, Fear him not; for I have delivered him into your hand, and all his people, and his land; and you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon. So they struck him, and his sons, and all his people, until none was left alive; and they possessed his land. And the people of Israel set forward, and camped in the plains of Moab on this side of the Jordan by Jericho. **Numbers 21:33-35, 22:1**

וַנָּפָן וַנַּעַל דֶרֶךְ הַבַּשָׁן וַיָּצֵא עוֹג מֵלֶךְ הַבַּשַׁן לְקָרָאתֶנוּ הוּא וְכַל עַמּוֹ לַמַּלְחַמָה אָדְרֶעִי: וַיֹּאמֶר ד׳ אָלַי אַל תירא אתו כי בידד נתתי אתו ואת כל עמו ואת ארצו ועשית לו כאשר עשית לסיחן מלך האמרי אשר יוֹשֶׁב בָּחֶשְׁבּוֹן: וַיָּתֵּן ד׳ אֵ–לֹהֵינוּ בַּיַרֵנוּ גַם אָת עוֹג מֶלֶךְ הַבַּשַׁן וָאָת כֵּל עַמּוֹ וַנַבֶּהוּ עַד בִּלְתִּי הְשָׁאִיר לוֹ שַריד: וַנַּלְכַּד אָת כַּל עַרִיו בַּעָת הָהוא לא הַיִתָה קריַה אָשֶׁר לא לַקְחנוּ מֵאתַם שְׁשִׁים עִיר כַּל חֶבֵל אַרגב מַמְלֵכֵת עוֹג בַּבָּשָׁן: בָּל אֵלֵה עָרִים בִּצְרת חוֹמָה גִבֹהָה דְּלָתִים וּבְרִיחַ לְבַד מֵעָרִי הַפְּרְזִי הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד: ונחרם אותם כַּאַשר עַשִינוּ לְסִיחן מֵלְךְ חַשׁבּוֹן הַחַרם כַּל עִיר מתם הַנַּשִׁים וְהַטַף: וְכַל הַבְּהַמָה וּשְׁלֵל הַעַרִים בַּזוֹנוּ לַנוּ: וַנַּקָּח בַּעָת הַהָּוֹא אֶת הַאָרֶץ מִיָּד שָׁנִי מַלְכֵי הַאֱמֹרִי אֲשֶׁר בִּעֶבֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן מִנַּחַל אַרנֹן עַד הַר חֵרְמוֹן: צִידֹנִים יִקְרָאוּ לְחֵרְמוֹן שָׁרִין וְהַאֲמֹרִי יִקְרָאוּ לוֹ שָׁנִיר: כֹּל | עַרֵי הַמִּישֹׁר וְכַל הַגִּלְעַד וְכַל הַבַּשַׁן עַד סַלְכָה וָאָדַרֶעִי עַרִי מַמּלֶכָת עוֹג בַּבַּשַׁן: כִּי רַק עוֹג מֶלֶךְ הַבַּשַׁן נִשְׁאַר מִיֶּתֶר הַרְפַּאִים הַנָּה ערשו ערש בַּרוַל הַלה הוא בַּרָבַת בַנִי עַמוֹן תַּשַׁע אַמוֹת אַרַכָּה וְאַרְבַּע אַמוֹת רַחְבָּה בַּאָמַת אִישׁ: הַאָרץ הַזֹּאת יַרַשְׁנוּ בַּעֵת הַהָּוֹא מֶעֵרעֵר אֲשֶׁר עַל נַחַל אַרנן וַחֲצִי הַר הַגִּלְעַד וְעַרֵיו נַתַתִּי לַראוּבֵנִי וְלַגַּדִי: ויתר הגלעד וכל הבשן ממלכת עוג נתתי לחצי שבט המנשה כל חבל הארגב לכל הבשן ההוא יקרא אָרָץ רְפָּאִים: יַאִיר בַּן מִנְשָׁה לָקָח אָת כַּל–חֶבֵל אַרגֹב עַד גֹבוּל הָגִשׁוּרִי וְהַמַעַכַתִי וַיִּקְרָא אֹתָם עַל שׁמוֹ אָת הַבַּשׁן חַוּת יָאִיר עַד הַיּוֹם הָזָה וּלְמַכִיר נַתַתִּי אָת-הָגִּלְעַד: וְלַראוּבֵנִי וְלַגַּדִי נַתַתִּי מָן-הָגִּלְעַד וְעַד נחל אַרנן תוך הַנַחַל וגבל ועד יַבּק הַנַחַל גבול בַנִי עַמון: והערבה והַיַּרדָן וגבל מכּנַרת ועד יַם הַעַרְבָה יָם הָמֶּלֶח תַּחַת אַשָּׁדת הַפָּסְגָּה מְזָרָחָה: וַאָצֵו אָתָכֶם בַּעַת הָהוֹא לֵאמר ד' אֵ–לֹהֵיכֶם נַתַן לְכֶם אָת הארץ הזאת לרשתה חלוצים תעברו לפני אחיכם בני ישראל כל בני חיל: רק נשיכם וטפכם ומקנכם יָדַעְתִּי כִּי מִקְנֶה רַב לְכֶם יִשְׁבוּ בִּעָרִיכֶם אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לָכֶם: עַד אֲשֶׁר יָנִיחַ ד׳ | לַאֲחֵיכֵם כָּכֵם וְיַרְשׁוּ גַם הֵם אָת הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר ד׳ אֶ–לֹהֵיכֶם נֹתֶן לָהֶם בְּעֶבֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן וְשַׁבְתֵּם אִישׁ לִירְשַׁתוֹ אֲשֶׁר נַתַתִּי לַכֶם: דברים Then we turned, and went up the way to Bashan; and Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. And the L-rd said to me, Fear him not; for I will deliver him, and all his people, and his land, into your hand; and you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon. So the L-rd our G-d delivered into our hands Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people; and we struck him until none was left remaining. And we took all his cities at that time, there was not a city which we took not from them, sixty cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. All these cities were fortified with high walls, gates, and bars; beside unwalled towns a great many. And we completely destroyed them, as we did to Sihon king of Heshbon, completely destroying the men, women, and children, of every city. But all the cattle, and the plunder of the cities, we took for a booty to ourselves. And we took at that time out of the hand of the two kings of the Amorites the land that was on this side of the Jordan, from the brook of Arnon to Mount Hermon; Which Hermon the Sidonians call Sirion; and the Amorites call it Shenir; All the cities of the plain, and all Gilead, and all Bashan, to Salcah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan. For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of Refaim; behold, his bed was a bed of iron. Is it not in Rabbath of the sons of Ammon? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the cubit of a man. And this land, which we possessed at that time, from Aroer, which is by the brook Arnon, and half mount Gilead, and its cities, gave I to the Reubenites and to the Gadites. And the rest of Gilead, and all Bashan, being the kingdom of Og, gave I to the half tribe of Manasseh; all the region of Argob, with all Bashan, which was called the land of Refaim. Jair the son of Manasseh took all the country of Argob to the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites; and called the Bashan after his own name Havoth-Jair, to this day. And I gave Gilead to Machir. And to the Reubenites and to the Gadites I gave from Gilead even to the brook Arnon half the valley, and the border even to the brook Jabbok, which is the border of the sons of Ammon; The Arabah also, and the Jordan, as a border, from Kinnereth to the sea of the Arabah, the Sea of Salt, from the slopes of Pisgah eastward. And I commanded you at that time, saying, The L-rd your G-d has given you this land to possess it; you shall pass over armed before your brothers the people of Israel, all who are fit for the war. But your wives, and your little ones, and your cattle, for I know that you have much cattle, shall remain in your cities which I have given you; Until the L-rd has given rest to your brothers, as well as to you, and until they also possess the land which the L-rd your G-d has given them beyond the Jordan; and then shall you return every man to his possession, which I have given you. Deut. 3:1-20

C.
כ.
לַכֶּם אֶת הָאָרֶץ וְכִי נְפְלָה אֵימַתְכֶם עָלֵינוּ וְכִי נָמֹגוּ כִּל ישְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ וְכִי נְפְּלָה אֵימַתְכֶם עָלֵינוּ וְכִי נָמֹגוּ כָּל ישְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ וְכִי נְפְּלָה אֵימַתְכֶם עָלֵינוּ וְכִי נָמֹגוּ כָּל ישְׁבֵי הָאָבֶי מִפְּנֵיכֶם בְּצֵאתְכֶם מִמְּצְרִים וַאֲשֶׁר עֲשִׂיתֶם לְשְׁבֵי לְשְׁלֵוּ אֲשֶׁר הָחֲרַמְתָּם אוֹתָם: וַנִּשְׁמֵע וַיִּמֵּס לְבָבנוּ וְלֹא קְמָה מַלְבֵי הָאֲשֶׂר בְּעֵבֶר הַיַּרְדֵּן לְסִיחֹן וּלְעוֹג אֲשֶׁר הֶחֲרַמְתָּם אוֹתָם: וַנִּשְׁמֵע וַיִּמֵּס לְבָבנוּ וְלֹא קְמָה עוֹד רוּחַ בִּאִישׁ מִפְּנֵיכֵם כִּי ד׳ אֵ–לֹהֵיכֵם הוּא אֵלהִים בַּשְּׁמֵים מִמַּעַל וְעַל הָאָרֵץ מִתְחַת: יהושע בּיט-יא

And she (Rahab) said to the men, I know that the L-rd has given you the land, and that your terror has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the L-rd dried up the water of the Red Sea for you, when you came out of Egypt; and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites, who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you completely destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted, nor did courage remain in any man, because of you; for the L-rd your G-d, he is G-d in heaven above, and in earth below. **Joshua 2:9-11**