### Numbers

## Chapter 21

1After that, the CanaAnite king of Arad (who lived near the desert) heard that IsraEl had traveled through Atharin, so he went to war against IsraEl and carried some of [their people] off as captives.  
  
2So, IsraEl swore a vow to Jehovah, saying:  
  
 ‘If You’ll hand them over to us, we’ll dedicate them and their cities to You.’  
  
3Well, Jehovah heard what [the people of] IsraEl said and He gave the CanaAnites into their hands. They [destroyed] them and their cities, and they started calling that place the Cursed!  
  
  
4Thereafter, they left Mount Hor and traveled towards the Red Sea, circling the land of Edom. But somewhere along the way, the people lost their courage 5and started speaking against God and Moses, saying:  
  
 ‘Why have you brought us out of Egypt just to kill us here in the desert?  
  
 ‘[We have] no bread or water, and we’ve come to hate the worthless bread!’  
  
6So, Jehovah sent poisonous snakes among them that bit [many] people, and quite a few of the children of IsraEl died. 7As a result, the people went to Moses and said:  
  
 ‘We have sinned, for we’ve spoken against Jehovah and against you!  
  
 ‘Please pray to Jehovah and [ask] Him to take these snakes away from us!’  
  
8Well, Moses prayed to Jehovah for the people, and the Lord told Moses:  
  
 ‘Make [the sign of] a snake and [post it high].  
  
 ‘Then, whenever someone is bitten by a snake, they can look at [this sign] and they’ll live.’  
  
9So Moses made a brass snake and raised it as a sign; and whenever a snake bit a person, he [or she] could look at the bronze snake and survive.  
  
  
10Thereafter, children of IsraEl left that place and started camping in ObOth.  
  
11And from ObOth, they moved to AchalGai, which is on the eastern edge of the desert across from MoAb.  
  
12From there they traveled on and camped in the Zared Valley.  
  
  
13Then they left [Zared] and camped on the other side of the Arnon, in the desert that runs along the border of the Amorites. The Arnon is the border between the MoAbites and the Amorites, 14for this is what was written about ZoOb in the book of the Wars of Jehovah:  
  
 ‘The dry river beds of Arnon were set on fire, 15and MoAb’s [Capital] Er [was built] along the river beds at their border.’  
  
16It was there that they found a well, and Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘I have given this well to Moses; so, gather the people and I’ll give them water to drink.’  
  
17Then IsraEl started singing this song at the well:  
  
 18‘It was there that their leaders dug it;  
 The kings of their nation and kingdom.  
 They, in their kingship, sank it in rock;  
 This well of ManthaNain.  
  
 19‘From ManthaNain to NaAliEl,  
 And from NaAliEl to BamOth,  
 Then, on from BamOth to Janen;  
 And from the plains of MoAb,  
 And the quarry that faces the desert.’  
  
  
20Well after that, Moses sent ambassadors to SeOn (the king of the Amorites) with words of peace.  
  
They [said to him]:  
  
 21‘We [wish to] pass through your land.  
  
 ‘We’ll just travel along the road… We won’t step into your fields or vineyards, 22and we won’t drink any water from your wells.  
  
 ‘We’ll just travel along the King’s Highway until we pass through your borders.’  
  
23But SeOn wouldn’t allow IsraEl to cross his borders. Rather, he gathered all his people and set up battle lines against IsraEl from the desert [all the way] to JasSa!  
  
24However, IsraEl beat them and slaughtered [many of their people with] swords. So thereafter, they owned all the land from the Arnon to the JaBoc as far as the children of AmMon (for, JaZer borders the [land of] the children of AmMon).  
  
25IsraEl also captured all of the Amorite cities in the [district of] Hesh-EbonEh, and they started living in them!   
  
26Hesh-EbonEh had been the city of SeOn the king of the Amorites, and he had previously fought against the king of MoAb and captured all the land from AroEr to the Arnon.  
  
27That’s why there was a saying among those who speak of such dark things:  
  
 ‘Come to Hesh-EbonEh, in order to build,  
 And prepare the city for SeOn.  
  
 28‘Then a fire came out of Hesh-EbonEh…  
 Flames from the City of SeOn.  
 And there they burned and consumed  
 To the banks of the Arnon in MoAb.  
  
 29‘So, woe to you, O MoAb;  
 For you’ve lost, O you people of CheMosh.  
 Your sons that survived have now all been sold,  
 And your daughters are the captives of SeOn,  
 Who is the Amorite king.  
  
 30‘From Hesh-EbonEh to DaEbon  
 All your offspring is now gone,  
 And their women light the fires that are burning in MoAb.’  
  
31It was while IsraEl was living in the cities of the Amorites 32that Moses sent spies to JaZer. Then he captured it and its [surrounding] villages, and he drove out the Amorites that lived there!  
  
33And after their return, they [marched] up the road that leads to BaShan. And BaShan’s king Og sent his army from EdraIn to meet them.  
  
34Then the Lord told Moses:  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid of him; for I’m putting him, his people, and his land into your hands!  
  
 ‘Now, do to him like you did to SeOn the king of the Amorites, who lived in Hesh-EbonEh.’  
  
35So they attacked and destroyed [Og], his sons, and all his people – there were no survivors, and [IsraEl] inherited their land.