

CONTENT WITH LESS, OR CONTEND FOR MORE

Deuteronomy 2:24 (ESV)

I can remember after a regular morning prayer Q&A as a disciple talking with PG about things we weren't seeing in the concert, in neighborhood outreaches, Saturday morning outreach... He answered with a question; *What are you going to do about it?* Throughout the course of that morning I learned a lesson: Will I be content with LESS or will I contend for MORE?

In the passage we are going to look at, we find this word CONTEND, Moses uses it in the context of engaging with the enemy for MORE-

Deuteronomy 2:24 (ESV) 'Rise up, set out on your journey and go over the Valley of the Arnon. Behold, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to take possession, and contend with him in battle.

I THE CALL FOR MORE:

A- Deuteronomy is Moses' final sermons before his departure and the COI crossing over into the PL.

1. It was a reminder of the HX, and a warning for the future-

a. We are God's people, He delivered us out of slavery, He gave us His law, do not depart from it!

2. So Chapter 2 begins the Taking Possession of the land, the call for more, little by little-

a. God said go here, now go there, now take this place, now move into that area

i. It is a continuous advancement.

B- This presents a picture for you and I... God has great plans and purpose for your life

1. He wants you to have DOMINION, AUTHORITY, POWER

a. It doesn't happen all at once, but in steps

i. But there needs to be a continuous advancement... more and more, little by little...

2. The issue is that people can settle for less... We read later in Judges 6, after land was taken, and the people established, they began to settle for less... and people they once conquered now had dominion over their lives-

a. Judges 6:2 And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds.

i. For 7 years Midian determined what happened to the COI... They settled for less-

3. So you need to think: Where have I settled for less? How have I settled for less? Why have I settled for less?

II CONTENDING AND ADVANCEMENT:

A- Our passage teaches/reminds us that in order to advance, it will involve contending

1. V24 Begin to take possession, and contend with him in battle.

a. Contend= Stir up strife, excite against, engage in strife

b. The language is aggressive: Rise up, Set out, Go over, Take possession, Contend with, Battle

2. Contending is Deliberate, Intentional, Focused, Militant, Offensive to the enemy

B- I remember leaving that breakfast with the understanding that Action was going to need to be taken-

1. Evangelism was the spearhead in that contending-

a. Saturday Outreach, Weekly neighborhood outreach, Personal weekly outreach, Evangelism Nights-

2. That was the battle! That was the engaging... If you are going to try and stop us here, then we will go out!

a. (Roc. June30,2018) Disciple leading concert, with guest rap group from Toronto... Halfway through, no visitors, disciple asked me if we could stop and go downtown... We did, and had 14 saved... next concert had visitors-

3. Contending takes Work, Time, Action... V24 says; contend with him in battle... That is a picture for us!

III THE DECLARED VICTORY:

A- While Contending will take Action... Remember God has already declared Victory-

1. Deuteronomy 2:24 'Rise up, set out on your journey and go over the Valley of the Arnon. Behold, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to take possession, and contend with him in battle.

a. The instruction came from God: Rise Up, and Journey over... He is guiding and directing them... It is God's idea, so he will help them!

b. I have given into your hand: If you will take action, I have already determined the results!

c. Begin to take possession: Victory will happen in steps... But ultimately victory will happen

B- Its all there, but its up to you: PG question: *What are you going to do about it?*

1. Contend with the enemy... Work it through... Wrestle it through...

a. It will not happen outside of this-