

Deuteronomy: Living as God's Covenant People
God's Power and Providence
Deuteronomy 2:24-3:11

Every trial puts us on a trail, and the direction we walk determines whether that trail will lead us away from God or closer to God. Every trial has the potential to lead us away from God, but every trial is intended to draw us closer to Him. When we read through Israel's early history, we discover that they went through various trials and walked on various trails. If it is true that every trial leads to a trail, then it begs the question, "Which direction will we travel?"

1. God hardens the hearts of those whose hearts are hardened.

2. God grants victory to those who rely on Him in the fight.

3. God preserves His providence through terrifying displays of power.

The day will come when that non-believing world, when every non-believer will be confronted with their unbelief. Their hearts will melt under the terror of a truly righteous, just, and holy God. They will discover the futility of trying to live with willful ignorance of God, casual indifference to God, or blatant hostility toward God. They will discover the futility of walking away from in times of trials, and instead realize too late that every trial is a trail designed to bring them closer to God, to know him better and to love him more.

Reflection

Take some time to read Ephesians 6:10-20 and consider how well you are wearing each piece of the armor of God. Think about how that armor will help you in the fight you are in right now. Consider the trials you have faced and whether or not you have sensed or seen the providence of God at work in the midst of them. How did God communicate His will to you in that moment? How did He reveal His providence? How did you know whether a trial had placed you on a trail leading away from God or drawing closer to Him? What can you begin doing today that will help you remember that trials ultimately strengthen us to the point where we realize we lack nothing?