

THE GOD WHO GIVES AND KNOWS  
Deuteronomy 2:7

Intro: In Deuteronomy 1-4 we have the first of Moses' last messages to his people, delivered in the land of Moab just east of the Jordan River. In the first three chapters he reviewed their journey from Horeb, or mount Sinai, and then in chapter 4 he exhorted them to obey God.

If there is one verse which summarizes all that Moses had to say, it must be Deut. 2:7. Moses could do nothing else but exalt the faithfulness of God. And this was to encourage the people of God for the journeys and the conflicts which were yet ahead when Moses would no longer be with them.

But it has another purpose.

Although our circumstances are different, there are many similarities between our experiences and the experiences of the children of Israel. Therefore, it is for our encouragement, too. When we see God's faithfulness to His people in the past, and we know that He is our God, we know that we can expect Him to be faithful to us, too.

Note how Moses spoke of the Lord in this verse--two times: "the Lord thy God." If I have counted correctly, these are the 14th and 15th times that Moses has referred to the Lord in this way (including the times he said, "Lord God") since the beginning of his message in chapter 1. What is the truth in this?

Let me take the three parts of it:

- 1) "The Lord."
  - 2) "God."
  - 3) The little, but all-important word, "thy."
- This is all by way of introduction.

"The Lord" -- the living God. We know this in our heads, but we do not show it in our lives. As the living God He is unchanging and eternal One. This is the Name that Moses learned at the burning bush, the Name that he took with him back to Egypt. This is Jehovah, the great "I AM." This Name speaks of His faithfulness to all of His purposes and promises.

"God" --cf. Psalms 18:31, "For who is God save the Lord? . . ."  
This is the God of creation. The God Whose power is sovereign. This name speaks of His strength, His omnipotence. Thus, we are to submissive to Him and worship Him.

But how wonderful that Moses could say, "the Lord thy God."  
Cf. Psalms 23:1. Also see Isaiah 41:10. Also 1 Corinthians 1:3, 9.

When you get discouraged, or whenever you need a special blessing, pick up your Bible and look through a few passages where the writers of Scripture speak of my God, and our Lord, or our Lord Jesus Christ.

— So this is the first delightful thing about our text.

But now I want you to examine with me what Moses said about "the Lord our God."

Let me call your attention, first of all, to three words in our text which begin with the letter "w."

## I. WORKS.

Now remember where they were, where they had come from, and why they had been so long on the way: 40 years! And then you will see the wonder of this statement.

What is said about their works?

They had been blessed. How many of them? "All" of them. Who had blessed them? "The Lord" their "God." What did this mean? It meant that that which would have otherwise been fruitless had accomplished the purpose for which they were intended.

— How good the Lord had been to them! How they should have praised Him! Their works may not have accomplished all that the Israelites had wanted to accomplish, but they had accomplished all that the Lord intended.

The second word:

## II. WALKING.

What about their walking--their daily lives, step by step?

The Lord knew it.

This word for know in the Hebrew is rich in its meaning. Let me point out at least three things to remember when it is used in this way, as in Jer. 1:5, "before I formed thee, I knew thee." Also Psa. 103:14, "he knoweth our frame." And Job 23:10, "he knoweth the way that I take."

This means:

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- 1) That the Lord knew where they were and all about their circumstances every moment of every day.
  - 2) But it means also that He had appointed their way, that there were divine purposes behind all of their experiences.

- 3) But it also means that their God was moved toward them with love. Wilson in his word studies on the Hebrew says that the Hebrew words for knowledge express affection.

— Now let's carry this on to the third word:

### III. WILDERNESS.

This means a desert where it was hot much of the time and dusty and very wearing.

The Lord knew where they were. And He knew, and they knew, why they were there.

Look at Deut. 1:31. Even though they were there because of the sins of those before them, yet the Lord did not forsake them.

How descriptive of our experiences, is it not? This world is a wilderness, and often we suffer the consequences of our own failures and sins. But God is faithful!

But now I must give you two more words in order to complete what Moses had to say in this verse. And they do not begin with a "w," but with a "p."

### — IV. PRESENCE.

Moses said, "These forty years the Lord thy God hath been with thee."

This means not only that He had gone with them, but that He had been for them, on their side.

Remember that Moses wanted to call everything off if the Lord's presence did not go with them. Cf. Ex. 33:15. Here again is evidence of the grace of God.

The Lord had delivered them from their enemies. He had guided them. And He had done for them that which is indicated by our last word:

### V. PROVISION.

"Thou hast lacked nothing."

— Cf. Luke 22:35.

They had manna. They had quail. They had water. They had clothing. They had the cloudy pillar and the fire. They had victory over their enemies. Cf. Phil. 4:19.

We are inclined to get our desires mixed up with our needs.

Cf. the whole of the 85th Psalm, but especially vv. 11, 12--  
the end of the Psalm:

For the Lord God is a sun and shield:  
the Lord will give grace and glory:  
no good thing will he withhold  
from them that walk uprightly.  
O Lord of hosts,  
blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

Concl: The Lord knew:

- 1) What they were doing -- their works.
- 2) How they were spending their time -- walking.
- 3) Where they were -- in the wilderness.
- 4) What they needed -- and they lacked nothing.

And in His unchanging faithfulness and unlimited power He was  
working out His purposes in their lives with love manifested in  
all that they experienced.

This should be our testimony, too.

Note Moses' prayer in Deut. 3:24. He had seen plenty, more than  
most of God's people, but it only made him realize that he had  
only started to see the greatness and the power of God.

We see it now, but there will be so much more to see when we  
get to heaven. Let us trust Him, and let us worship Him, the  
living and ever-faithful God!