



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of April 8, 2018

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a “worship discussion” guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Numbers 21:10-35 “The Wars of the LORD ”

- **Do you ever sing? Where do you sing? Does singing come naturally for you? Why?**

¹⁰ And the people of Israel set out and camped in Oboth. ¹¹ And they set out from Oboth and camped at Iye-abarim, in the wilderness that is opposite Moab, toward the sunrise. ¹² From there they set out and camped in the Valley of Zered. ¹³ From there they set out and camped on the other side of the Arnon, which is in the wilderness that extends from the border of the Amorites, for the Arnon is the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites. ¹⁴ Therefore it is said in the Book of the Wars of the LORD,

“Waheb in Suphah, and the valleys of the Arnon,
¹⁵ and the slope of the valleys
that extends to the seat of Ar,
and leans to the border of Moab.”

¹⁶ And from there they continued to Beer; that is the well of which the LORD said to Moses, “Gather the people together, so that I may give them water.” ¹⁷ Then Israel sang this song:

“Spring up, O well!—Sing to it!—
¹⁸ the well that the princes made,
that the nobles of the people dug,
with the scepter and with their staffs.”

And from the wilderness they went on to Mattanah, ¹⁹ and from Mattanah to Nahaliel, and from Nahaliel to Bamoth, ²⁰ and from Bamoth to the valley lying in the region of Moab by the top of Pisgah that looks down on the desert.

- **The children of Israel move several times in their fortieth year out of Egypt (10-13), after Aaron and Miriam die. When they arrive at Beer, they sing a song (17-18). Why do they sing this song (16)?**

²¹ Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, saying, ²² “Let me pass through your land. We will not turn aside into field or vineyard. We will not drink the water of a well. We will go by the King's Highway until we have passed through your territory.” ²³ But Sihon would not allow Israel to pass through his territory. He gathered all his people together and went out against Israel to the wilderness and came to Jahaz and fought against

Israel. ²⁴ And Israel defeated him with the edge of the sword and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, as far as to the Ammonites, for the border of the Ammonites was strong. ²⁵ And Israel took all these cities, and Israel settled in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all its villages. ²⁶ 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, as far as the Arnon. ²⁷ Therefore the ballad singers say,

“Come to Heshbon, let it be built;
let the city of Sihon be established.

²⁸ For fire came out from Heshbon,
flame from the city of Sihon.
It devoured Ar of Moab,
and swallowed the heights of the Arnon.

²⁹ Woe to you, O Moab!
You are undone, O people of Chemosh!
He has made his sons fugitives,
and his daughters captives,
to an Amorite king, Sihon.

³⁰ So we overthrew them;
Heshbon, as far as Dibon, perished;
and we laid waste as far as Nophah;
fire spread as far as Medeba.”

³¹ Thus Israel lived in the land of the Amorites.

- **Israel sends messengers to Sihon, the king of the Amorites, requesting safe passage through the Amorite territory (21-22). What is Sihon's response to this request (23)?**
- **What does Israel do to Sihon and the Amorites (24-26)? ([Deuteronomy 2:32-36](#), [Judges 11:20-22](#), [Amos 2:10](#))**
- **The land south to the Arnon had originally belonged to the Moabites and had been stolen by Sihon. Sihon's former conquest had also been immortalized in poetry (27–30). Moses uses an Amorite poem ironically to describe Israel's destruction of the Amorites. In other words, a boastful Amorite song celebrating their victory over the Moabites now is sung by Israel to celebrate her victory over the Amorites. What do the children of Israel do with the Amorite territory (31)?**

³² And Moses sent to spy out Jazer, and they captured its villages and dispossessed the Amorites who were there. ³³ Then they turned and went up by the way to Bashan. And Og the king of Bashan came out against them, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. ³⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, "Do not fear him, for I have given 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 at Heshbon." ³⁵ So they defeated him and his sons and all his people, until he had no survivor left. And they possessed his land.

- **Og, the king of Bashan, goes out to war against Israel at Edrei (33). Og and his people were the remnant of what people group? ([Deuteronomy 3:11](#), [Joshua 13:12](#))**

- **What does the Lord say to Moses about the ensuing battle against King Og (34)?**
- **What do the children of Israel do to King Og of Bashan and his people (35)? ([Deuteronomy 3:1-7](#))**
- **Reflect on blessings and victories God has given to you. What do you have to sing about?**
- **Each week in worship, we conclude with a song and a blessing. We sing the [Doxology](#), and then receive the benediction. Sing the [Doxology](#) together as a group, spend time in prayer thanking God for His many blessings, and then read [Numbers 6:24-26](#) to close your time of prayer.**

Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Numbers 21:10-35](#).

- A couple of things to note:
 - No more nationwide grumbling
 - Lots of movement
 - Time has passed and a new generation is slowly taking hold
 - Verses 10-13 "they set out and camped"
 - Verses 16-20 "and they continued"
- We should have a sense of progress, yet the progress is through a lot of places that seem like the middle of nowhere.
- We should also see this as fully functioning community:
 - They are all moving
 - Poets and singers are at work
 - Nobles and princes are helping to dig wells
 - There are diplomats and spies
 - There are soldiers. A word about "soldiers" and this conflict.
- But there is something that makes this text stand out and that is singing. Especially, singing, and not grumbling.
- God is providing water and victory and the people sing.
- The first generation had entered the wilderness with a song.
- Grumbling is irreconcilable with singing (lament is not). Grumbling feels sorry for itself, while singing delights in what God has given and what He has promised to give.

"And they sang a new song, saying,
'Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation'." ([Revelation 5:9](#))

"And they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth." ([Revelation 14:3](#))

- The Gospel transforms us from sinners who grumble to sinners who sing.

*Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
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