

# PARASHAT DEVARIM

## *Deuteronomy 1:1–3:22*

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*Parashat Devarim* begins a series of speeches by Moses to the Israelites. They are about to enter the Land of Israel. Moses will die in Moab on Mount Nebo. He reminds the people that they will take possession of the land given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He recalls the time when he was unable to lead them by himself and how God told him to appoint wise leaders to assist him. Moses also recounts sending scouts to explore the land, resulting in a divisive report that frightened the people with predictions of defeat. Because of the scouts' lies and the people's lack of faith, their whole generation was not allowed to enter the land. Only Caleb and Joshua son of Nun, who brought back a positive report, would lead the new generation of Israelites into the Land of Israel. Moses then recounts their route of travel from Kadesh-barnea southward to Ezion-geber, then northward skirting Edom and Moab to Kedemoth and Heshbon, and their victorious battles with Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan.

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