

POSSESS THE LAND

Numbers 26:1- 27: 23, 33:50- 56

After the plague that the Lord sent upon the nation of Israel because of their sin at Baal-Peor, the Lord spoke to Moses and Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest. He told them to take a count of all the congregation from twenty years old and upward, all those men who would be able to go to war.

Moses and Eleazar told the people in the plains of Moab by the Jordan River near Jericho to take the count of the people as the Lord had commanded. When the men were counted, they found that there were six hundred one thousand, seven hundred thirty men who could go to war. The Lord told Moses that the land would be divided for an inheritance among these people. The land would be divided by lot, according to the tribes.

Twenty three thousand Levites were also counted, but they were not to receive an inheritance of land. They were dedicated to the Lord's service, and he would provide for their needs through the offerings that the people brought to him.

When all the people had been counted, it was seen that there was not a man found among them that had been counted by Moses and Aaron before the people were first told to go into the Promised land. All those people who had sinned against the Lord and refused his good land had died in the wilderness as the Lord said. The only men yet living of that generation were Joshua and Caleb, the two spies who had believed the Lord and obeyed him. God promised them that they would be allowed to go into the Promised land because of their faith in him.

At this time the Lord made provision for how the land would be passed on to the next generations. He also made provision for the man who had no sons to give his inheritance to. Such a man's land would be passed on to his daughters, so that it would keep the family name.

Now the Lord told Moses to go up into mount Abarim so that he could look out over the Promised land which the Lord had given to the children of Israel. The Lord told Moses, "When you have seen it you will be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron before you. You will not be allowed to enter the land because you rebelled against my commandment in the desert of Zin, and did not sanctify me before the people at the waters of Meribah.

Then Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, "Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, put a man over the congregation to lead them, so that the people will not be as sheep that have no shepherd."

The Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand on him. Set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and give him a charge in their sight. You will put some of your honor upon him, that all the congregation of Israel may be obedient. Joshua will stand before Eleazar the priest, who will ask counsel for him of Urim before the Lord. At his word the people shall be led."

Joshua was chosen to lead the children after Moses' death, but he would not speak to the Lord directly as Moses had. Joshua got his direction from the Lord through the priest and Urim.

Moses did as the Lord commanded him, and took Joshua and set him before Eleazar and the congregation, and laid his hands upon him and gave him the charge to lead the people of Israel.

After this the Lord spoke to Moses telling him to command the children of Israel concerning the offerings and the festivals. He gave them the law for vows.

At this time the tribes of Reuben and Gad asked permission to settle the lands that the congregation had already conquered though it wasn't in the promised land. The Lord allowed this on the condition that those two tribes would still go with the rest of the congregation and help them to conquer the land. Moses reminded the people of the journey that they had taken, all the places where they had been.

Now the Lord spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab near Jericho, saying, "When you have crossed over the Jordan and gone into the land of Canaan, then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land. You shall destroy all their pictures, and all their molten images, and take down all their high places of worship. You shall possess the land that I have given you., and divide it for an inheritance among your families. But, if you do not drive out all the inhabitants of the land, then it will come to pass, that those that you allow to remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides. They will trouble you in the land where you live. Beside that I will do to you as I had planned to do to them.

The forty years of wandering in the wilderness have come to an end for the children of Israel, and a new generation is about to see God's promise fulfilled. Before the people enter the land God gives them a warning and command as to how they are to take the land. He also tells the people how he, God feels about this special land that he has given to them. From the verses we have to learn this week we learn about the land of promise. God speaks of

this land itself as very special to him. God tells his people that he always watches over this land with a special care at all times. He tells how he waters it with the rain of heaven.

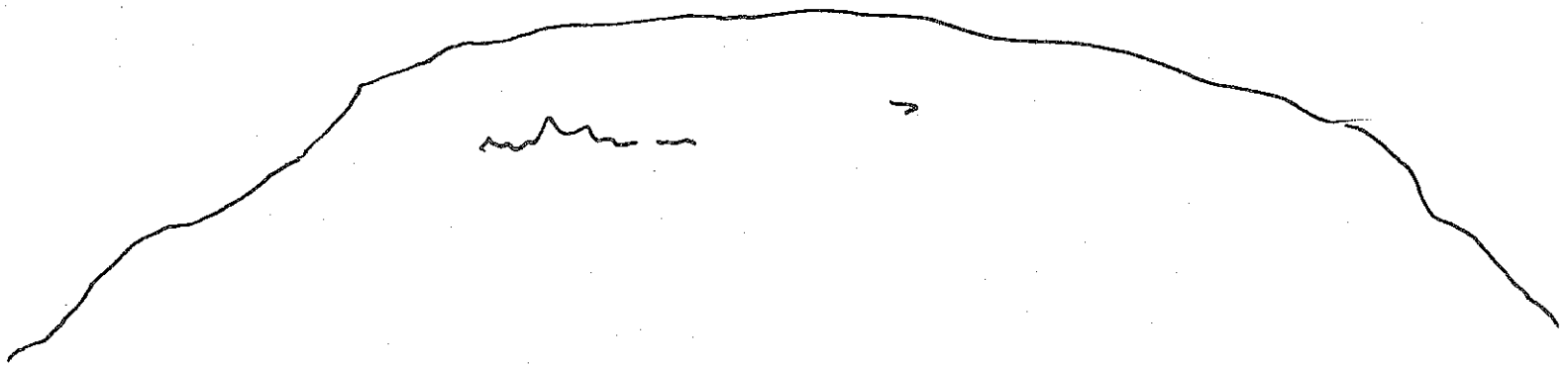
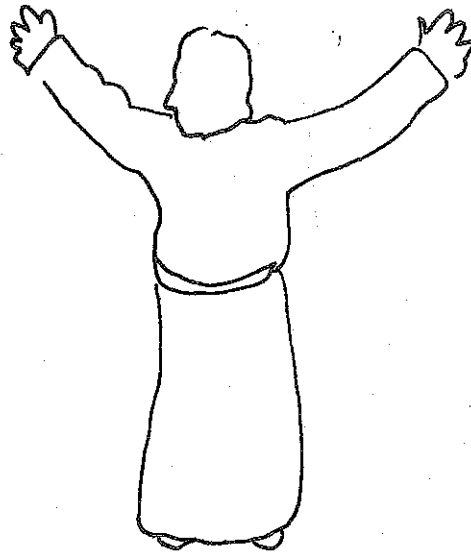
So today, the land of Israel is still a special place to the Lord God, and he still watches over it just as he has done through the years. God will perform his will for the land, as well as the people, just as he has promised. This verse gives us a beautiful picture of our God and how he cares for his creation.

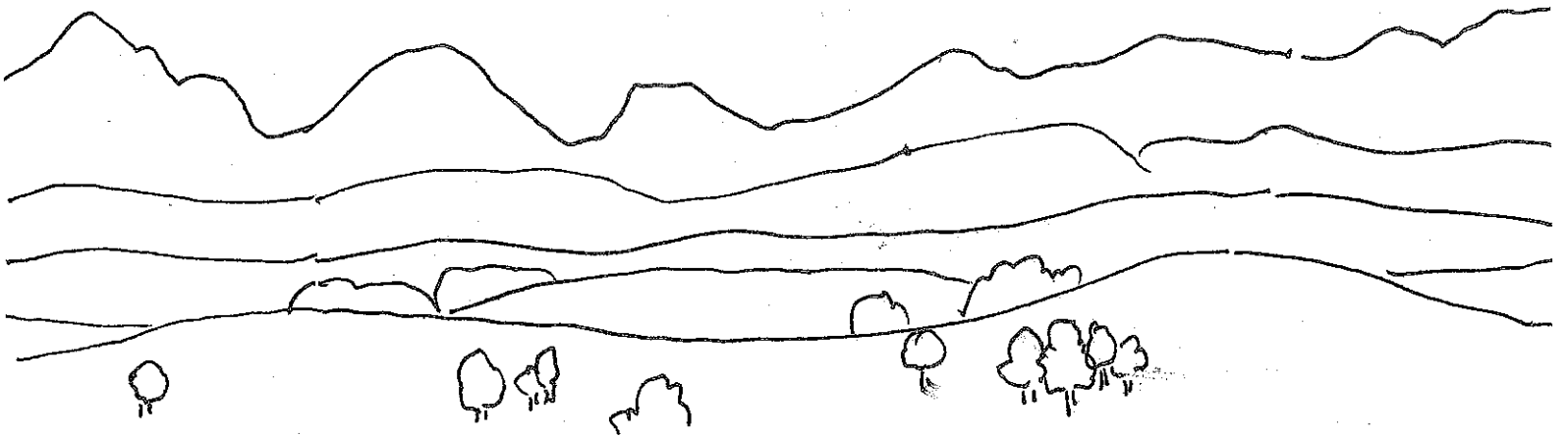
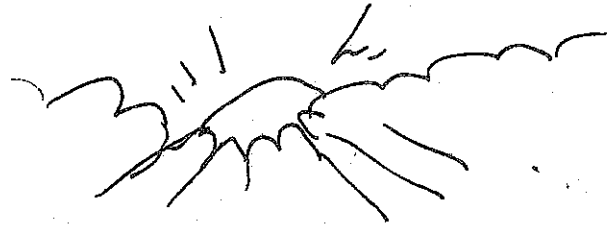
LEARN: But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven:

A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.

Deuteronomy 11: 11,12

1. Color Moses and mountain top.
2. Cut them out.
3. Use either colored construction paper to make your background or beautiful land cut from magazine pictures.
4. Paste Moses and mountain top unto bottom of construction paper picture.





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