

## March 12 Answers

- 1) Moses' First Sermon (Deut 1–2: Remember the past). Israel is camped in the plains of Moab at the end of the 40-year wilderness period. Moses began by telling the story of how Israel rebelled against God at Kadesh-barnea. He did this because the new generation needed to be **reminded** of their fathers' sin. They needed to remember that **unbelief** had caused frustration, death and decades of wandering in the desert. This teaches us that we need to honestly recall our past sins and tell our **children** how disobedience led to heartache and pain. The consequences of sin should **motivate** us to obey in the future! Moses then made a point of telling the new generation that God had blessed them during their wanderings: "You have lacked **nothing**" (Deut 2:7). It was important for the people to hear God's **perspective** of their journey for they had grumbled over the lack of water (Num 20:2) and complained about the manna (Num 21:5). They needed to realize that when you have the Provider, you have all you need! Moses also recounted how God had led the people safely past Edom and Moab, and how He had given them victory over the **Amorites**. God prohibited Israel from taking any land from Ammon, Moab and Edom, showing that a nation's claim to the land is grounded in His **gift**, not in power or possession (cf. Deut 2:12, 21–22). The defeat of King Sihon of Heshbon was *not* due to Israel's military **might**. It was because God delivered him into Israel's hand (Deut 2:31). The people needed to understand that their ability to conquer their enemies came only through God's power. There was no need for **fear** and no place for **pride**: "The LORD our God delivered all over to us" (Deut 2:36).