

Wednesday 15 April 2020

Deut.2, 7: "These 40 years the LORD your God has been with you. You have lacked nothing."

2Cor.6, 4.10: Paul writes: "As servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in affliction, hardships, calamities; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything."

The way of the people of God led through the desert – 40 long, difficult and testing years. One might have thought that the lack of water and food typical of a place like that would have been their undoing. But it wasn't. Why? Because the LORD their God was with them, sustaining them and providing what they needed so that at the end of their 40 years they had to agree: "You have lacked nothing."

The Lord Jesus says to his disciples after his resurrection: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ... And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." What does this imply but that they shall lack nothing on their way? As Paul puts it expressly: "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (Rom8, 31-32)

In Christ, God with us, we lack no grace, no hope, no blessing, no promise, no love, no mercy, no strength, no Spirit nor fruit of the Spirit, even as we in ourselves may reveal to be lacking in many things. Do we not have every reason to trust and to obey him?