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Ramban concludes his commentary on this verse with the following:

It is further possible that, from the time the manna descended until they came to Seir, they did not eat bread at all, for they travelled through the great and dreadful wilderness. But, in the fortieth year, they approached inhabited land, and it was said to them, "You are to pass through the border of your brethren the children of Esau; you shall purchase food of them" (Deut. 2:4, 2:6). There it is written, "these forty years the Eternal thy G-d hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing" (Deut. 2:7). And, from that time on, the Edomites and the Moabites met them with bread and water where prominent Israelites would buy from them for pleasure, neither for necessity, nor for satiety, because their principal sustenance was [still] the manna.

ואפשר עוד כי מעת שירד
המן עד בואם אל שעיר
לא אכלו לחם כלל כי
הלכו במדבר הגדול
והנורא אבל בשנת
הארבעים קרבו לישוב
ונאמר להם (לעיל בד ו)
ואת העם צו לאמר אתם
עוברים בגבול אחיכם בני
עשו אכל תשברו מאתם
ושם (דברים בז:) כתוב זה
ארבעים שנה ה' אלהיך
עמך לא חסרת דבר ומן
העת ההיא היו האדומים
והמואבים מקדימים אותם
בלחם ובמים והיו גדולי
ישראל קונים מהם
ואוכלים לתענוג לא לצורך
ולא לשבעה ועיקר
המחיה שלהם במן

If our ancestors were already being supplied with manna, I could understand why they would be interested in purchasing bread from these merchants. However, if they already had a supply of potable water, why would prominent Israelites, according to



Ramban, buy water "for pleasure"? While it could be that they wanted a classier water, why not suggest that, just as the Israelites of means purchased bread for pleasure, why not also beer and wine for pleasure? Indeed, if we found ourselves in the wilderness for decades, subsisting off of water and manna, wouldn't we purchase bread, beer, and wine for some consumptive variety?

Fortunately, we do not live in a desert and are able to enjoy life, in general, and Shabbat, in particular, with beer, bread, and wine.

L'chaim 🍷🍺

Indeed, it is certainly an intriguing possibility to divide the timing of when these items became available, which makes a lot of sense of the interactions with the Edomites and the Moabites. One thing that seems peculiar, however, in Ramban's concluding commentary regards their beverages.

Wine Wednesdays

Jewish Drinking's monthly Cincinnati Wine Wednesdays continue this month with more Israeli wines. Taking place on September 13th at 8pm at a private residence, we will enjoy three Israeli wines courtesy of KosherWine.com, along with an intriguing gin, courtesy of Israel's oldest whiskey distillery (for more on this distillery, check out this week's episode of *The Jewish Drinking Show* (see information on the right)).

As part of Jewish Drinking's Texts-and-Tasting series, the accompanying discussion will be on Drinking Inside/Outside of Sukkot.

While there is no charge to attend, a suggested minimum donation of \$18 to Jewish Drinking is requested. Any questions, please reach out to Rabbi Drew at Drew@JewishDrinking.com.



The Jewish Drinking Show



Kicking-off the "Toast to Israel at 75" mini-series, the most recent episode of *The Jewish Drinking Show* features Gal Kalkshtein and Tal Chotiner, the CEO & founder and Vice President of Global Sales, respectively, of M&H Distillery, the oldest whiskey distillery in Israel.

Shot on location at M&H in Tel Aviv, amongst other topics, the episode mentions the effect of having won best single malt whiskey in the world this spring, as well as sourcing their own kosher sherry casks. The episode is available at JewishDrinking.com/MHDistillery

