

Deuteronomy 2:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I sent messengers out of the wilderness of Kedemoth unto Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying,

Analysis

Moses' message to Sihon—'Let me pass through thy land'—models diplomatic engagement before warfare. The promise 'I will go along by the high way, I will neither turn unto the right hand nor to the left' offers peaceful passage with clear boundaries. The willingness to 'buy meat... and give me water for money' shows honorable intent—commercial transaction, not exploitation. Warfare should be last resort, not first option, when peaceful alternatives exist.

Historical Context

This echoes Israel's earlier request to Edom (Numbers 20:17). The 'king's highway' was a major north-south trade route through Transjordan. Moses' reasonable request demonstrated that Israel's conquest was divinely directed—they only fought when necessary, respecting neighbors where God commanded and engaging enemies only when attacked or divinely authorized.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you pursue peace before resorting to conflict in relationships or situations?
2. What does honorable engagement with those outside your faith community look like?

Interlinear Text

וַאֲשֶׁלַּח מֵלָאֲכִים מִמִּדְבַּר רַקְדֶּמֹת אֶל סִיחֹן וְ
And I sent **messengers** **out of the wilderness** **of Kedemoth** ^{H413} **unto Sihon**
H7971 H4397 H4057 H6932 H5511

לֵאמֹר: שָׁלֵם וְדִבַּרְתָּ יְהִשָּׁבֵן וְמֶלֶךְ
king **of Heshbon** **with words** **of peace** **saying**
H4428 H2809 H1697 H7965 H559

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 13:18 (Parallel theme): And Jahazah, and Kedemoth, and Mephaath,
