

Deuteronomy 2:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt sell me meat for money, that I may eat; and give me water for money, that I may drink: only I will pass through on my feet;

Analysis

Sihon's refusal had divine causation: 'the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate.' This sovereign hardening (like Pharaoh's) served God's purpose 'that he might deliver him into thy hand.' God's hardening doesn't violate human will but confirms existing disposition, turning rebellion into occasion for judgment. This raises profound questions about divine sovereignty and human responsibility that Scripture holds in tension.

Historical Context

Sihon's hardening parallels Pharaoh (Exodus 7-14), showing a pattern where God judicially hardens those persistently resistant to His purposes. This isn't arbitrary cruelty but righteous judgment that uses human rebellion to accomplish divine plans. The conquest of Sihon's territory became essential for Israel's Transjordan settlement and approach to Canaan.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you grapple with texts describing God's hardening of human hearts?
2. In what ways does persistent resistance to God's will result in further hardening?

Interlinear Text

אֶל כָּל	בַּכֶּסֶף	תִּשְׁבֹּר נִי	וְאֶכֶל לִתִּי	וַיִּמְּ	בַּכֶּסֶף	תִּתֵּן
me meat	for money	Thou shalt sell	that I may eat	me water	for money	and give
H400	H3701	H7666	H398	H4325	H3701	H5414
לִי	וְשָׁתִי יִתִּי	כִּי	אֶעֱבֹר ה	בְּרַגְלִי:		
H0	that I may drink	H7535	only I will pass through	on my feet		
	H8354		H5674	H7272		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 20:19 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel said unto him, We will go by the high way: and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will pay for it: I will only, without doing any thing else, go through on my feet.