

Deuteronomy 2:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.

Analysis

Sihon's aggressive response—"he and all his people, to fight at Jahaz"—initiated warfare, not Israel's invasion. Sihon's choice to attack rather than allow passage sealed his doom. The specification of location (Jahaz) grounds the narrative in historical reality. God's purposes sometimes advance through enemies' hostile choices—what they intend for evil, God uses for His people's good.

Historical Context

Jahaz was a site in Moabite territory where the decisive battle occurred. Later prophets referenced this victory as proof of God's power (Psalm 135:10-11; 136:19-20). Sihon's defeat, combined with Og's, gave Israel complete control of Transjordan from the Arnon River to Mount Hermon, setting the stage for crossing Jordan into Canaan.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How have you seen God turn hostile opposition into opportunities for His glory?
2. What battles have you faced that resulted in greater blessing than if opposition hadn't occurred?

Interlinear Text

אָבֶּה	סִיחֹן	לְרֹא	מִלְחָמָה	שָׁבַע	וְלֹא	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי
H3808	would	But Sihon	king	of Heshbon	not let us pass	H0	H3588	
H14		H5511	H4428	H2809	H5674			
הַקְשָׁה	יְהֹוָה	אֱלֹהִים	אֵת	רוֹחַ	וְאַפְצָה	אֵת		
hardened	by him for the LORD	thy God	H853	his spirit	obstinate	H853		
H7185		H3068	H430	H7307	H553			
לִבְבָּוֹן	לְמַעַן	תַּתֵּן	בְּיַדְךָ					
and made his heart	H4616	that he might deliver	him into thy hand					
H3824		H5414	H3027					
בָּיִתְהָ								
as appeareth this day	H2088							
H3117								

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 21:23 (Parallel theme): And Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass through his border: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and went out against Israel into the wilderness: and he came to Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

Exodus 4:21 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I

have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.

Exodus 11:10 (References Lord): And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, so that he would not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

Isaiah 48:4 (Parallel theme): Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass;

Judges 11:20 (Parallel theme): But Sihon trusted not Israel to pass through his coast: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and pitched in Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

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