

# 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

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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

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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

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**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

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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

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כִּי	בֹּ	וְהַעֲבַרְנוּ	חֶשְׁבֹּן	וְלִי	מֶלֶךְ	סִיחֹן	אָבָה	וְלֵא
H3588	H0	H5674	H2809	H4428	H5511	H14	H3808	
		not let us pass	of Heshbon	king	But Sihon	would		
אֶת	וְאִמָּץ	רוּחוֹ	אֶת	אֱלֹהֵי יְיָ	יְהוָה	הַקָּשָׁה		
H853	H553	H7307	H853	H430	H3068	H7185		
	obstinate	his spirit	thy God	by him for the LORD	hardened			
בְּיָדְךָ	תַּתּוֹ	לְמַעַן	לִבּוֹ	וַיַּעַבְדֵהוּ				
H3027	H5414	H4616	H3824					
him into thy hand	that he might deliver	and made his heart						
וְהָיָה	כִּי יֵרָאֶה							
H2088	H3117							
	as appeareth this day							

### Additional Cross-References

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**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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