

Deuteronomy 2:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Only unto the land of the children of Ammon thou camest not, nor unto any place of the river Jabbok, nor unto the cities in the mountains, nor unto whatsoever the LORD our God forbade us.

Analysis

The exception—'Only unto the land of the children of Ammon thou camest not'—demonstrates Israel's obedience to God's earlier prohibition (Deuteronomy 2:19). Despite military momentum and capability, Israel respected God's boundaries regarding Ammon. The specificity 'nor unto any place of the river Jabbok, nor unto the cities in the mountains' shows detailed compliance. True faith obeys God's 'no' as readily as His 'yes.'

Historical Context

The Jabbok River formed the border with Ammon. Israel's restraint despite having just conquered Sihon and Og proved their conquest wasn't mere militaristic expansion but obedience to divine direction. This restraint distinguished Israel from typical ancient Near Eastern powers who conquered whatever they could. God's commands, not human ambition, determined Israel's warfare.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Where is God calling you to restraint despite having capability and opportunity?
2. How do you demonstrate that obedience to God, not personal ambition, drives your actions?

Interlinear Text

קָרְבָּן בְּתַּתְּךָ אֶל בְּקָרְבָּן
H7535 H413 Only unto the land of the children of Ammon
H776 H1121 H5983 H3808 H7126 thou camest

כֹּל אֵת יְבָקָן גַּת יְשָׁרָר
H3605 not nor unto any place of the river Jabbok nor unto the cities
H3027 H5158 H2999 H5892

אֶלְהִינוּ רַבָּת אָשָׁר וְכֹל צְבָא הָיָה
in the mountains H3605 H834 forbad nor unto whatsoever the LORD
H2022 H6680 H3068 H430 our God

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 32:22 (Parallel theme): And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two w提醒en servants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok.

Deuteronomy 3:16 (Parallel theme): And unto the Reubenites and unto the Gadites I gave from Gilead even unto the river Arnon half the valley, and the border even unto the river Jabbok, which is the border of the children of Ammon;

Numbers 21:24 (Parallel theme): And Israel smote him with the edge of the sword, and possessed his land from Arnon unto Jabbok, even unto the children of Ammon: for the border of the children of Ammon was strong.

Deuteronomy 2:19 (Parallel theme): And when thou comest nigh over against the children of Ammon, distress them not, nor meddle with them: for I will not give

thee of the land of the children of Ammon any possession; because I have given it unto the children of Lot for a possession.

Joshua 12:2 (Parallel theme): Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon, and ruled from Aroer, which is upon the bank of the river Arnon, and from the middle of the river, and from half Gilead, even unto the river Jabbok, which is the border of the children of Ammon;

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