

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 forbad 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

בְּקִי	אֶל	אֶרֶץ	בְּנֵי	עַם	לֹא	קָרָבָתָּ
H7535	H413	Only unto the land	of the children	of Ammon	H3808	thou camest
		H776	H1121	H5983		H7126
כָּל	וְ	בְּ	יַבְבֹּק	וְ	עָרֵי	
H3605		not nor unto any place	of the river	Jabbok	nor unto the cities	
		H3027	H5158	H2999	H5892	
הַ	וְ	אֲשֶׁר	צִוֵּה	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵינוּ:	
in the mountains	H3605	H834	forbad	nor unto whatsoever the LORD	our God	
H2022			H6680	H3068	H430	

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 32:22 (Parallel theme): And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, 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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