

Deuteronomy 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession.

Analysis

God's explicit prohibition—'Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land'—defines limits to Israel's conquest. The reason given ('I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession') reveals God's sovereignty over all nations, not just Israel. God assigns territories according to His purposes, and Israel must respect His decisions. This prevents presumptuous aggression disguised as faith and teaches that not every opportunity equals a divine mandate.

Historical Context

God's grant to Esau predated the promise to Abraham's line through Jacob. This demonstrates God's providence extends to all nations—He is sovereign over human history broadly, not just redemptive history narrowly. Romans 9:13's 'Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated' concerns God's sovereign choice in redemptive purposes, not personal vindictiveness.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between what God has promised you versus what belongs to others?
2. In what areas might you be overreaching beyond God's specific calling for you?

Interlinear Text

אַל	לֹא	כִּי	בְּמִ	תִּתְגַּר	וְ	אֵל	לְכָם	מִאָרֶץ	מִ	לְכָם	בְּ	תִּתְגַּר	וְ	אֵל	
H408	Meddle	H0	H3588	H3808	because I have given	H5414	H0	you of their land	H776						
	H1624							H776							
לְעֵד	כַּאֲ	מִדְבָּר	בְּנֵ	עֵד	כַּאֲ	כַּאֲ	כַּאֲ	יְרַשְׁתָּה	לְעֵד	לְעֵד	יְרַשְׁתָּה	לְעֵד	לְעֵד	לְעֵד	
H5704	breadth	H3709	no not so much as a foot	H7272		H3588	for a possession	H3425	unto Esau	H6215					
	H4096														
שְׁעִירָה:	בְּרִ	אֶת	נִתְתִּ												
because I have given	H853	mount	Seir												
	H5414		H2022	H8165											

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 24:4 (Parallel theme): And I gave unto Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave unto Esau mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt.

Genesis 36:8 (Parallel theme): Thus dwelt Esau in mount Seir: Esau is Edom.