

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

Psalms 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

אֶל H408	תִּתְּנָהּ וְ Meddle H1624	כִּי H0	לֹא H3588	נָתַתִּי H5414	לָכֶם H0	מֵאֲרָצָם you of their land H776
עַד H5704	מִדְּבָרָהּ breadth H4096	כִּפֹּר H3709	כִּגֹּל H7272	כִּי H3588	יְרֵשָׁהּ for a possession H3425	לְעֵשָׂו unto Esau H6215
	נָתַתִּי because I have given H5414	אֶת H853	הָרֶם mount H2022	שֵׁעִיר: Seir 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.