

Deuteronomy 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when we passed by from our brethren the children of Esau, which dwelt in Seir, through the way of the plain from Elath, and from Ezion-gaber, we turned and passed by the way of the wilderness of Moab.

Analysis

The description of passing 'by the way of the plain from Elath, and from Ezion-gaber' provides specific geographical markers, grounding the narrative in historical reality. Turning toward 'the wilderness of Moab' shows Israel's continued journey northward. Detailed itinerary demonstrates that God's guidance involves concrete, step-by-step direction, not just vague spiritual impressions. God cares about the practical details of our journey.

Historical Context

Elath and Ezion-gaber were ports on the Gulf of Aqaba (Red Sea's northeastern arm). This route skirted Edom's southern border before turning north. Later, Solomon would build ships at Ezion-gaber (1 Kings 9:26), and Elath would remain strategically important in Israel's history.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you seek and follow God's detailed guidance in practical matters?
2. What confidence does knowing God cares about specifics bring to your daily decisions?

Interlinear Text

וַנַּעֲבֹר	מֵאֵת	אֶחָיוֹ	בְּנֵי	עֵשָׂו
And when we passed	H854	by from our brethren	the children	of Esau
H5674		H251	H1121	H6215
וּמַעְצֵי	מֵאֵילָת	הָעֵרְבָה	דֶּרֶךְ	בְּשַׁעֲיֵר
which dwelt	in Seir	by the way	of the plain	
H3427	H8165	H1870	H6160	H0
וּמִדְבַּר	דֶּרֶךְ	וַנַּעֲבֹר	וְכִפָּן	גְּזֵר
and from the wilderness	by the way	And when we passed	we turned	and from Eziongaber
H4057	H1870	H5674	H6437	H6100
מֹאָב׃				
of Moab				
H4124				

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 9:26 (Parallel theme): And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongaber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom.

2 Kings 16:6 (Parallel theme): At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave the Jews from Elath: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day.

Judges 11:18 (Parallel theme): Then they went along through the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of the land of Moab, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, but came not within the border of Moab: for Arnon was the border of Moab.

2 Kings 14:22 (Parallel theme): He built Elath, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.

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