

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

Psalm 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

עַשׂ וְ בָנִי מֵאַת תַּנְעַבְתָּ רְאֵת יְנַעַבְתָּ אֶחָד יְנַעַבְתָּ
And when we passed by from our brethren the children of Esau
H5674 H854 H251 H1121 H6215

וְמִעְצָיו מִאֵיל תַּנְעַבְתָּ הַעֲרָבָה הַשְׁבִּים יְנַעַבְתָּ יְרֵא
which dwelt in Seir by the way of the plain from Elath
H3427 H8165 H1870 H6160 H359 H0

מִדְבָּר תַּנְעַבְתָּ רְאֵת יְנַעַבְתָּ בָּרְאֵת
and from Eziongaber we turned And when we passed by the way of the wilderness
H6100 H6437 H5674 H1870 H4057

מוֹאָב:

of Moab

H4124

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 9:26 (Parallel theme): And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber, which is beside Elath, 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 drove 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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