

Deuteronomy 4:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they possessed his land, and the land of Og king of Bashan, two kings of the Amorites, which were on this side Jordan toward the sunrising;

Analysis

And they possessed his land, and the land of Og king of Bashan, two kings of the Amorites, which were on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.

Moses summarizes trans-Jordan conquest: Israel possessed (וַיַּעֲשֵׂה, vayyireshu) the territories of both Sihon and Og, shenei malkhei ha'Emori (שְׁנֵי מֶלֶךְ הָעָמֹרִי), 'two kings of the Amorites'). The verb yarash implies not merely military victory but actual dispossession and inheritance—the conquered land became Israel's permanent possession.

These were not minor tribal chieftains. Sihon controlled the southern trans-Jordan from the Arnon to the Jabbok; Og ruled Bashan in the north, a giant of a man (Deuteronomy 3:11) whose kingdom included sixty fortified cities. Their combined territories covered substantial agricultural and pastoral land. Their defeat eliminated any rival power east of the Jordan.

The phrase mizrach hashemesh (מִזְרָח הַשְׁמֵשׁ, 'toward the rising of the sun') again specifies eastern orientation. From Israel's perspective on Moab's plains, the sun rose over the conquered territories. This directional marker creates geographical precision while subtly suggesting new beginnings—where the sun rises, Israel's inheritance dawns. What God began with Sihon and Og He will complete across the Jordan.

Historical Context

Moses recalls the conquest of both Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings ruling east of the Jordan. These victories (Numbers 21:21-35; Deuteronomy 2-3), occurring just weeks or months before this speech around 1406 BC, provided tangible proof that God would fulfill His promise to give Israel the land despite enemy military superiority.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do past victories over seemingly impossible obstacles serve as evidence that God will complete His work in your life?
2. What does Israel's possession of conquered territory teach about the relationship between God's sovereign gift and human responsibility to receive it?

Interlinear Text

מֶלֶךְ וְעַד וְיִרְשֶׁת
And they possessed H853 and the land H853 and the land H776 of Og H5747 king H4428
H3423

בְּעֵד בָּרֶשֶׁת
of Bashan two king of the Amorites H834 which were on this side
H1316 H8147 H4428 H5676

שְׁמַשׁ
toward the sunrising H8121
Jordan H4217

