

# Joshua 12:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon, and ruled from Aroer, which is upon the bank of the river Arnon, and from the middle of the river, and from half Gilead, even unto the river Jabbok, which is the border of the children of Ammon;

## Analysis

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Recounting conquered territories: 'Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon, and ruled from Aroer, which is upon the bank of the river Arnon, and from the middle of the river, and from half Gilead, even unto the river Jabbok, which is the border of the children of Ammon.' This detailed geographic catalog establishes the extent of Transjordan conquests. The specificity—Aroer, Arnon, Gilead, Jabbok—provides historical precision. Sihon's defeat (Numbers 21:21-31) was Israel's first major victory, giving confidence for Canaan conquest. The extensive territory controlled—from Arnon to Jabbok—shows Sihon was a significant king. This catalog serves memorial function: future generations would remember what God accomplished through Israel. Psalm 136:17-22 celebrates these victories in worship. The passage teaches that remembering God's past faithfulness builds faith for present challenges.

## Historical Context

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Sihon's kingdom controlled crucial territory east of the Jordan River and Dead Sea. The Arnon River marked the southern boundary (modern Wadi Mujib), flowing into the Dead Sea. The Jabbok River (modern Zarqa River) marked the northern extent. This territory, called Gilead, was fertile highland suitable for agriculture and

grazing. Aroer was a fortified city on the Arnon's northern bank. The detailed geography indicates accurate historical memory or records. Archaeological surveys confirm extensive Late Bronze Age settlement in this region. Sihon's defeat was significant because his kingdom blocked Israel's approach to Canaan from the east. His refusal to grant passage (Numbers 21:21-23) led to war and Israelite victory. This territory was later allotted to Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh (Numbers 32). The memorial catalog reminds these tribes that their inheritance came through God's mighty acts, not their own achievement.

## **Related Passages**

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does rehearsing God's past faithfulness (like this catalog) strengthen faith for present challenges?
2. What role do detailed historical records play in preserving accurate memory of God's works?
3. What significant spiritual victories should you catalog and remember as memorials to God's faithfulness?

## Interlinear Text

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מַעְרוֹעַ ר מֶשֶׁל בְּחֶשְׁבֹּן הַיּוֹשֵׁב הָאֹמֹרִי מֶלֶךְ סִיחוֹן

**Sihon king of the Amorites who dwelt in Heshbon and ruled from Aroer**

H5511

H4428

H567

H3427

H2809

H4910

H6177

אֲרֹנֹן הַנָּחַל שְׂפַת עַל אֲשֶׁר

H834

H5921

**which is upon the bank**

H8193

**even unto the river**

H5158

**Arnon**

H769

יַבֹּק וְעַד הַגִּלְעָד וְחֶצֶי וְהַנָּחַל וְתוֹךְ

**and from the middle**

H8432

**even unto the river**

H5158

**and from half**

H2677

**Gilead**

H1568

H5704

**Jabbok**

H2999

עַמּוֹן: בְּנֵי יָגֹב וְהַנָּחַל

**even unto the river**

H5158

**which is the border**

H1366

**of the children**

H1121

**of Ammon**

H5983

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 32:22** (Parallel theme): And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok.