

# 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

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

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

---

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

---

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

---

מֶרְעָה	רַ	מֶשֶׁ	לְ	בְּחַשְׁבָּה	וְ	הַיּוֹשֵׁב	בְּ	בְּאָמֹרִים	יְ	מֵ	לֵגֶן	סִיחוֹן
Sihon	king	of the Amorites	who dwelt	in Heshbon	and ruled	from Aroer						
H5511	H4428	H567	H3427	H2809	H4910	H6177						
עַל	אַשְׁר	שְׁפָת	כְּפָל	כְּפָל	אַרְנוֹן	וְ						
H834	H5921	which is upon the bank	even unto the river	H5158	H769							
		H8193										
וְ	וְ	כְּפָל	כְּפָל	וְ	גִּלְעָד	וְ	יְ	לְ	וְ	יְ	וְ	
and from the middle	even unto the river	and from half	Gilead	H5704	Jabbok							
H8432	H5158	H2677	H1568	H2999								
כְּפָל	גִּבְעָן	בְּנֵי	עַמּוֹן									
even unto the river	which is the border	of the children	of Ammon									
H5158	H1366	H1121	H5983									

## Additional Cross-References

---

**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.