

# Joshua 13:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jahazah, and Kedemoth, and Mephaath,

## Analysis

---

**And Jahaza, and Kedemoth, and Mephaath**—This verse continues the listing of cities in Reuben's territory. Jahaza (יהַזָּה) was the site where Israel defeated Sihon (Numbers 21:23, Deuteronomy 2:32), transforming it from a place of battle into a permanent inheritance. Kedemoth (קְדוּמֹת, "eastern places") marked the wilderness from which Moses sent peace messengers to Sihon before the war (Deuteronomy 2:26). Mephaath (מֵפָעַת) became a Levitical city (Joshua 21:37).

The geographical precision of these lists serves multiple purposes: legal documentation of tribal boundaries, historical record of God's faithfulness, and theological testimony that God's promises are concrete and verifiable. Every city name was a memorial stone, recalling specific acts of divine deliverance. The inclusion of Jahaza specifically reminds readers that places of past conflict can become future inheritance—battles fought in faith yield lasting blessing.

## Historical Context

---

Jahaza's exact location is disputed, but it lay in the territory between the Arnon and Jabbok rivers. Kedemoth was on the edge of the desert wilderness east of the Jordan. The cities listed here formed a defensive network protecting Reuben's territory from Moabite incursions from the south and desert raiders from the east. Several became Levitical cities, ensuring religious teaching penetrated even the Transjordan territories.

## Related Passages

---

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

---

1. How can places of past spiritual battles become lasting testimonies to God's faithfulness in your life?
2. What does the transformation of Jahaza from battlefield to inheritance teach about redemptive grace?
3. Why might God have inspired such detailed geographical lists in Scripture rather than general summaries?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְיַהְזָהָזָה וְקְדֵמוֹת וְמֵפָהָאת

**And Jahazah and Kedemoth and Mephaath**

H3096

H6932

H4158

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Numbers 21:23** (Parallel theme): And Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass through his border: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and went out against Israel into the wilderness: and he came to Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)