

# Joshua 13:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the cities of the plain, and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, which reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses smote with the princes of Midian, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, which were dukes of Sihon, dwelling in the country.

## Analysis

**And all the cities of the plain, and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites**—This verse summarizes Reuben's inheritance: the entire Moabite plateau (ha-mishor, הַמִּשְׂחָר) and Sihon's former kingdom. Sihon (שִׁיחֹן) represents Israel's first major military victory west of the wilderness, a defining moment when God demonstrated His faithfulness to the new generation after forty years of judgment. The comprehensive phrase "**all the kingdom**" emphasizes total victory and complete transference of sovereignty.

**Which reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses smote**—The verb nakah (נִקַּח, "to strike/smote") recalls the decisive defeat in Numbers 21. The text attributes victory to Moses, but Numbers 21:34 records God's command: "Fear him not: for I have delivered him into thy hand." This dual agency—human obedience and divine power—characterizes Israel's conquest. Moses struck, but God delivered. The passive voice in Joshua's rehearsal focuses on completed action: Sihon was defeated, his kingdom given, the promise fulfilled.

## Historical Context

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Sihon's kingdom stretched from the Arnon River in the south to the Jabbok River in the north, controlling the crucial King's Highway trade route. His defeat around 1406 BC was Israel's first Transjordan conquest, providing land for Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh. This victory also terrified Canaan's inhabitants (Joshua 2:10), preparing the way psychologically for the westward conquest.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does the dual agency in conquest (Moses struck/God delivered) inform our understanding of divine sovereignty and human responsibility?
2. What does receiving 'all the kingdom' of a defeated enemy foreshadow about believers' complete victory in Christ?
3. Why might God have chosen to give Israel's first major victory east of Jordan rather than within Canaan proper?

## Interlinear Text

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וְכֹל	עָרִים	הַמִּישָׁר	וְכֹל	מַמְלָכָה	וְתִּרְבּוֹת	סִיחָן	וְתִּרְבּוֹת	מֶלֶךְ	וְתִּרְבּוֹת
H3605	<b>And all the cities</b>	H4334	H3605	<b>and all the kingdom</b>	H4468	H5511	<b>of Sihon</b>	H4428	<b>king</b>
	H5892				H4468				
וְאֲשֶׁר	מֶלֶךְ	בְּחִשְׁבָּוֹן	אֲשֶׁר	הַכְּבָדָה	הַכְּבָדָה				
<b>of the Amorites</b>	H834	<b>which reigned</b>	<b>in Heshbon</b>	H2809	H834	<b>smote</b>			
H567		H4427			H5221				
וְאֶת	מִשְׁנָה	וְאֶת	מִדְיָן	וְאֶת	מִדְיָן	וְאֶת	אֹיִן	וְאֶת	אֹיִן
<b>whom Moses</b>	H853	H853	<b>with the princes</b>	H5387	<b>of Midian</b>	H4080	<b>Evi</b>	H853	
H4872					H189				
וְאֶת	צָרָר	וְאֶת	חֹרֶב	וְאֶת	בָּעֵד	וְאֶת	תְּסִיכָּה	וְאֶת	תְּסִיכָּה
<b>and Rekem</b>	H853	<b>and Zur</b>	H853	<b>and Hur</b>	H2354	<b>and Reba</b>	<b>which were dukes</b>		
H7552		H6698			H7254				
וְאֶת	בָּשָׁבָן	וְאֶת	סִיחָן	וְאֶת	בָּשָׁבָן	וְאֶת	סִיחָן	וְאֶת	בָּשָׁבָן
<b>of Sihon</b>	<b>dwelling</b>	<b>in the country</b>							
H5511	H3427	H776							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 31:8** (Kingdom): And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.

**Deuteronomy 3:10** (Kingdom): All the cities of the plain, and all Gilead, and all Bashan, unto Salchah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan.