

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, הַמִּישֹׁר) and Sihon's former kingdom. Sihon (סִיחֹן) 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 (נָכָה, "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

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

וְכָל	עָרֵי י	הַמִּישָׁר	וְכָל	מַמְלָכ וּת	סִיח וּן	מֶלֶךְ
H3605	And all the cities	of the plain	H3605	and all the kingdom	of Sihon	king
	H5892	H4334		H4468	H5511	H4428
הָאֱמֹרִי	אֲשֶׁר	מָלַךְ	בְּחֶשְׁבֹּן וּן	אֲשֶׁר	הִכָּה	
of the Amorites	H834	which reigned	in Heshbon	H834	smote	
H567		H4427	H2809		H5221	
מֹשֶׁה	אֶת וּן	וְאֶת	נָשִׂיאֵי י	מִדְיָן	אֶת	אֶלִי י
whom Moses	H853	H853	with the princes	of Midian	H853	Evi
H4872			H5387	H4080		H189
וְרֶקֶם	וְאֶת	צֹר	וְאֶת	חֹר	וְאֶת	רֶבֶעַ
and Rekem	H853	and Zur	H853	and Hur	H853	and Reba
H7552		H6698		H2354		H7254
וְנָסִיכֵי י	הָאֶרֶץ:	יֹשְׁבֵי י	סִיח וּן			
which were dukes		dwelling	of Sihon			
H5257		H3427	H5511			
		H776				

Additional Cross-References

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.