

# Numbers 20:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom, Thus saith thy brother Israel, Thou knowest all the travail that hath befallen us:

## Analysis

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Moses sent messengers to Edom's king calling Israel 'thy brother'—referencing Esau's descent from Esau, Jacob's twin. This appeal to kinship sought peaceful passage, demonstrating that God's people should pursue peace with neighbors when possible. Yet Edom's refusal (verse 18) shows that familial connection doesn't guarantee cooperation, especially when old animosities persist.

## Historical Context

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The enmity between Israel and Edom originated with Jacob and Esau's conflict (Genesis 25-27), persisting for generations. This request for passage mirrored the later command not to abhor Edomites (Deuteronomy 23:7). God expected His people to overcome ancient grudges and extend peace even where it might be rejected.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What family or historical conflicts need you to take initiative in pursuing peace?
2. How do you respond when peaceful overtures are rejected by those who should welcome them?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּשְׁלַח מֹשֶׁה מֶלֶךְ שָׂמֵחַ מִן־קָדֵשׁ אֶל־מֶלֶךְ אֶדְום וְאֶל־  
sent And Moses messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom

וְאֶל־מֶלֶךְ אֶדְום וְאֶל־מֶלֶךְ אֶדְום וְאֶל־מֶלֶךְ אֶדְום וְאֶל־  
unto the king of Edom unto the king of Edom unto the king of Edom unto the king of Edom

כִּי־אַתָּה יְדַעַת אֶת־הָיָה אֶת־יְהוָה אֲמֹר כִּי־  
Thus saith thy brother Israel Thou knowest

בְּתַלְלָה הַתְּלָלָה אֲשֶׁר־רַבְתָּה־נָא תְּלָלָה אֲשֶׁר־רַבְתָּה־נָא  
all the travail that hath befallen

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 23:7** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not abhor an Edomite; for he is thy brother: thou shalt not abhor an Egyptian; because thou wast a stranger in his land.

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