

# Numbers 20:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword.

## Analysis

---

Edom answered, 'Thou shalt not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword.' This hostile refusal, despite kinship and reasonable request, demonstrates that ancient resentments can override both family ties and fairness. Israel's response was not to force passage but to seek alternate route (verse 21), showing restraint even when wronged.

## Historical Context

---

Edom's antagonism toward Israel would persist throughout their histories (Psalm 137:7, Obadiah). This initial refusal set a pattern of hostility that God's people remembered with grief. Yet God's command not to fight Edom (Deuteronomy 2:4-5) required accepting this rejection peacefully.

## Related Passages

---

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

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

## Study Questions

---

1. How do you respond with godly restraint when treated unfairly or hostilely?

2. What ancient conflicts need you to refuse perpetuation despite others' antagonism?

## Interlinear Text

---

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלָיו	אֶדּוֹם	לֹא	תָעֵבֶר	בְּיָדִי	פָּן
<b>said</b>	H413	<b>And Edom</b>	H3808	<b>unto him Thou shalt not pass</b>	H0	H6435
H559		H123		H5674		
בְּחֶרֶב		אֶצִּי		לְקָרְאָתְךָ:		
<b>thee with the sword</b>		<b>by me lest I come out</b>		<b>against</b>		
H2719		H3318		H7125		

---

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