

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

יִ said	אָמַר H413	וְאֵלֶּי And Edom	וְאַד H3808	לֹא H123	רַעֲבֵן unto him	תַּעֲבֹר Thou shalt not pass	רַעֲבֵן H5674	בְּ H0	בָּיִת H6435
בְּכָבֵד thee with the sword	H2719	אֵצֶן by me lest	H3318	אֵצֶן I come out		לְאֵצֶן against	H7125		

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