

# Numbers 21:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they journeyed from Oboth, and pitched at Ije-abarim, in the wilderness which is before Moab, toward the sunrising.

## Analysis

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**They journeyed from Oboth, and pitched at Ije-abarim** (אֵי הַעֲבָרִים, iyye ha-abarim, "ruins of the regions beyond")—Israel's encampment names marked their progress toward Canaan. **In the wilderness which is before Moab, toward the sunrising** locates them east of the Dead Sea, approaching Transjordan from the southern route. Each encampment testified to God's faithfulness through decades of wandering.

The geographic precision reflects Moses' firsthand account—these weren't mythic wanderings but historical movements through real terrain. Deuteronomy 2:1-8 expands this narrative, showing God's sovereign direction even through seemingly aimless desert circuits.

## Historical Context

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This occurred in the 40th year after the Exodus (c. 1406 BC), as Israel circumnavigated Edom and Moab to approach Canaan from the east. Ije-abarim was in the mountain range overlooking Moab's plateau, marking the final phase of wilderness wandering.

## Related Passages

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

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

1. How does God's detailed preservation of Israel's journey encourage you in seasons that feel aimless or directionless?
2. What 'encampments' in your spiritual journey mark God's faithfulness through difficult transitions?
3. How does the geographic precision of Scripture validate its historical trustworthiness for you?

## Interlinear Text

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