

# Numbers 21:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From thence they removed, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, which is in the wilderness that cometh out of the coasts of the Amorites: for Arnon is the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites.

## Analysis

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**Pitched on the other side of Arnon** (אֶרְנוֹן, Arnon)—This gorge, cut 1,700 feet deep into Moab's plateau, formed the border **between Moab and the Amorites**. Israel carefully avoided Moabite territory (Deuteronomy 2:9) but camped in no-man's-land north of Arnon. **Which cometh out of the coasts of the Amorites** clarifies that this wilderness belonged to neither kingdom—Israel could traverse it without violating kinship obligations to Lot's descendants.

God's instructions respected tribal boundaries while advancing His purpose. The specificity demonstrates covenant faithfulness: Israel honored Moab's heritage while claiming only what God designated for conquest.

## Historical Context

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The Arnon River (modern Wadi Mujib) empties into the Dead Sea's east shore. In the late Bronze Age, this region was contested between Moab and Amorite kingdoms. Israel's route navigated complex geopolitics under divine direction.

## Related Passages

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

## Study Questions

- ## Interlinear Text

H769

H567

H996

H567

## Additional Cross-References

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**Judges 11:18** (Parallel theme): Then they went along through the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of the land of Moab, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, but came not within the border of Moab: for Arnon was the border of Moab.

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