

Numbers 21:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And at the stream of the brooks that goeth down to the dwelling of Ar, and lieth upon the border of Moab.

Analysis

At the stream of the brooks that goeth down to the dwelling of Ar—This verse continues the poetic fragment from the Book of the Wars. Ar (ער) was Moab's chief city, and these wadis marked territorial boundaries. **Lieth upon the border of Moab** reiterates Israel's careful navigation of international boundaries under divine supervision.

The repetition of geographical precision throughout these verses serves theological purpose: God's promises involve real estate, actual locations, historical fulfillment. Biblical faith is not spiritualized abstraction but incarnational—concerned with land, borders, cities, mountains. Redemption includes geography.

Historical Context

Ar was a fortified Moabite city, possibly near modern Ar-Rabba. The 'brooks' (נחלים, nechalim) were seasonal wadis cutting through the plateau, essential for settlements in this semi-arid region. Control of these water sources meant political power.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the Bible's emphasis on actual geography challenge overly spiritualized interpretations of God's promises?
2. What physical, tangible aspects of God's kingdom work are you tempted to minimize or allegorize away?
3. Where do you see God's redemptive purposes intersecting with material, geographical, embodied reality?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה And at the stream	אֶל יַם of the brooks	אָשָׁר H834	בְּנִתְלָל H5158	תָּלַת הַ H5186	בְּתַדְבֵּר H3427	בְּתַדְבֵּר H6144
וְיַשְׁעֵת H8172	לְגַב לָל H1366	מִזְאָב H4124				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 2:9 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give thee of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar unto the children of Lot for a possession.

Deuteronomy 2:18 (Parallel theme): Thou art to pass over through Ar, the coast of Moab, this day:

Numbers 21:28 (Parallel theme): For there is a fire gone out of Heshbon, a flame from the city of Sihon: it hath consumed Ar of Moab, and the lords of the high places of Arnon.

Deuteronomy 2:29 (Parallel theme): (As the children of Esau which dwell in Seir, and the Moabites which dwell in Ar, did unto me;) until I shall pass over Jordan into the land which the LORD our God giveth us.

Isaiah 15:1 (Parallel theme): The burden of Moab. Because in the night Ar of Moab is laid waste, and brought to silence; because in the night Kir of Moab is laid waste, and brought to silence;

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