

# Numbers 21:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass through his border: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and went out against Israel into the wilderness: and he came to Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

## Analysis

---

**Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass through**—Unlike Edom's refusal (Numbers 20:18-21), Sihon's rejection escalated to aggression. **But Sihon gathered all his people together, and went out against Israel into the wilderness: and he came to Jahaz** (יַחֲצָה, Yahtsah)—This wasn't mere border defense but offensive warfare. Deuteronomy 2:30 reveals God hardened Sihon's heart, creating necessary cause for Israel's conquest.

Jahaz became the first major battle for the Promised Land, though technically in Transjordan. Sihon's aggression transformed Israel from wanderers into warriors, from request-makers into conquerors. God orchestrated circumstances so Israel's inheritance came through victory, not negotiation—preparing them for Canaan's battles.

## Historical Context

---

Jahaz was in the Moabite plateau, later assigned to Reuben (Joshua 13:18). This battle (c. 1406 BC) marked Israel's transformation into a military power. The Moabite Stone (Mesha Stele, 9th century BC) mentions Jahaz, confirming the site's historical significance in Transjordan conflicts.

## Related Passages

---

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## Study Questions

---

1. When has God turned opposition into opportunity for conquest in your spiritual life?
2. How do forced battles sometimes prepare you for future challenges better than negotiated peace would?
3. Where might God be hardening opposition to move you from passive waiting to active faith?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְלֹא נָתַן סִיחֹן אֶת בְּיַשְׁכָּאֵל עָבַר בְּגִבְלוֹ  
H3808 would not suffer And Sihon H853 Israel to pass through his border  
H5414 H5511 H3478 H5674 H1366

וַיִּגָּדְפוּ סִיחֹן אֶת כָּל עַמּוֹ וַיֵּצֵא לִקְרַאת  
H622 And Sihon H853 H3605 all his people and went out against  
H5511 H5971 H3318 H7125

בְּיַשְׁכָּאֵל הַמִּדְבָּרָה וַיָּבֹא הָצָחָה וַיִּלָּחֶם בְּיַשְׁכָּאֵל  
H3478 into the wilderness and he came to Jahaz and fought Israel  
H4057 H935 H3096 H3898 H3478

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Judges 11:20** (References Israel): But Sihon trusted not Israel to pass through his coast: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and pitched in Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

---

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