

Numbers 21:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Israel took all these cities: and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all the villages thereof.

Analysis

After defeating Sihon, 'Israel took all these cities: and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all the villages thereof.' The Hebrew 'yashab' (dwelt/settled) marks Israel's first possession of promised territory - Transjordan became Reuben, Gad, and half-Manasseh's inheritance (ch 32). This initial conquest demonstrated God's enabling power and encouraged faith for Canaan proper. The pattern: God gives victory, His people possess and settle. This foreshadows believers possessing spiritual inheritance in Christ (Eph 1:3, 18). We must actively possess what God has promised, moving from mere knowledge to experiential enjoyment through faith-filled obedience.

Historical Context

Heshbon was Sihon's capital city (v.26), a significant Amorite stronghold Israel captured and occupied. The victory fulfilled Moses' prophecy: 'the LORD thy God shall deliver him before thee' (Deut 2:33). These cities became Israel's first permanent settlements after forty years of wilderness wandering. The conquest wasn't gradual expansion but decisive victory - entire territory taken quickly. Archaeological evidence confirms Late Bronze Age destruction levels at several sites matching biblical chronology. The ease of victory contrasted with earlier feared Canaanite strength (Num 13:28-33), demonstrating that faith in God's promise overcomes intimidating obstacles.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Are you actively possessing the spiritual inheritance God has promised, or merely acknowledging it theoretically?
2. How can you move from knowing God's promises to experiencing them through faith-filled action?

Interlinear Text

וָקַח	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֵת	כָּל	עָרֵי	הָאֵלֶּה	וַיָּשָׁב	יִשְׂרָאֵל
took	And Israel			all these cities		dwelt	And Israel
H3947	H3478	H853	H3605	H5892	H428	H3427	H3478
בְּכָל	עָרֵי	הָאֱמֹרִי	בְּחֶשְׁבֹּן	וּבְכָל	בְּנִתְיָהּ:		
	all these cities	of the Amorites	in Heshbon		and in all the villages		
H3605	H5892	H567	H2809	H3605	H1323		

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