

Numbers 21:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For Heshbon was the city of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab, and taken all his land out of his hand, even unto Arnon.

Analysis

For Heshbon was the city of Sihon the king of the Amorites—This explains Israel's right to Moabite-named territory: Sihon had conquered it from Moab first. **Who had fought against the former king of Moab, and taken all his land out of his hand, even unto Arnon**—Amorite conquest invalidated Moabite claims. Israel took from Amorites what Amorites took from Moab, creating a complex geopolitical justification.

God's providence worked through pagan power struggles. Sihon's earlier conquest positioned Israel's inheritance without requiring them to fight Lot's descendants directly. Divine orchestration uses even enemy victories to prepare covenant fulfillment.

Historical Context

Heshbon (modern Hesban, Jordan) was a fortified city on the Transjordan plateau. Excavations reveal late Bronze Age occupation, though identifying specific destruction levels with biblical battles remains debated. The city later became a Levitical city (Joshua 21:39) and appears in prophetic oracles against Moab (Isaiah 15-16, Jeremiah 48).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty use power struggles between opponents to prepare your inheritance?
2. What complex circumstances in your life might God be orchestrating for purposes you can't yet see?
3. How does this passage encourage trust in divine providence even through confusing international or interpersonal conflicts?

Interlinear Text

ה וְאַמְרֵי בַּמְלָקֶה וְאַמְרֵי כִּי
H3588 For Heshbon was the city of Sihon king of the Amorites H1931

אֶת יְהִקְנָתָה בְּרָאשׁ וְיַעֲשֵׂה מִזְמָרָת מִזְמָרָת
H1931 who had fought king of Moab against the former and taken H853

כָּל אֶרְצֵה וְאֶת מִזְמָרָת עַד אֶרְקָנָן:
H3605 all his land out of his hand H5704 even unto Arnon H769