

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

כִּי	חֶשְׁבֹן וְ	עִיר	סִיחֹן	בֶּמֶלֶךְ	הָאֱמֹרִי	וְ
H3588	For Heshbon	was the city	of Sihon	king	of the Amorites	H1931
	H2809	H5892	H5511	H4428	H567	
וְ	נָלַח מִ	בֶּמֶלֶךְ	מוֹאָב	הָרִאשׁוֹן	וְ	אָתָּה
H1931	who had fought	king	of Moab	against the former	and taken	H853
	H3898	H4428	H4124	H7223	H3947	
כָּל	אֶרֶץ וְ	מִיַּד וְ	עַד	אֶרְנוֹן:		
H3605	all his land	out of his hand	H5704	even unto Arnon		
	H776	H3027		H769		