

Numbers 21:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus Israel dwelt in the land of the Amorites.

Analysis

Thus Israel dwelt in the land of the Amorites (וַיָּשֵׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל, va-yeshev Yisrael)—The verb yashav means "to dwell, settle, inhabit"—not temporary camping but possession. This simple statement marks epochal transition: from wanderers to landowners, from nomads to settlers. Israel's 40-year wilderness sojourn ended not in Canaan proper but in Transjordan conquest.

The understated announcement carries theological weight. God's promises begin fulfillment, not in spectacular Jordan-crossing, but in quiet occupation of conquered territory. Faithfulness often arrives without fanfare—obedience simply finds itself home.

Historical Context

The Transjordan territory became the inheritance of Reuben, Gad, and half-Manasseh (Numbers 32, Joshua 13). Though east of the Jordan, it was legally and theologically part of the Promised Land. These tribes built cities, established families, and remained Israelite despite geographical separation from Canaan proper.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What quiet occupations of promises in your life went unnoticed because they lacked dramatic fulfillment?
2. How does God's faithfulness often arrive through ordinary settlement rather than spectacular events?
3. Where might you already be 'dwelling' in God's promises without recognizing the significance of simple obedience?

Interlinear Text

בָּאָרֶץ יְשַׁבָּא לְיִשְׁבָּב
dwelt Thus Israel in the land of the Amorites
H3427 H3478 H776 H567

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