

Numbers 21:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses sent to spy out Jaazer, and they took the villages thereof, and drove out the Amorites that were there.

Analysis

And Moses sent to spy out Jaazer (יַעֲזֵר, Ya'azer)—Unlike the fearful spying at Kadesh-barnea (Numbers 13-14), this reconnaissance preceded immediate conquest. **And they took the villages thereof, and drove out the Amorites that were there**—The contrast is stark: same action (spying), opposite outcomes (faith vs. fear). The new generation acts on intelligence rather than shrinking from it.

Jaazer demonstrates matured faith. The wilderness taught Israel to trust God's promises enough to act decisively. Reconnaissance isn't lack of faith—it's faithful preparation. Wisdom gathers information; faith acts on it despite risks.

Historical Context

Jaazer was in Gilead, later assigned to Gad (Numbers 32:35) and given to the Levites (Joshua 21:39). Its location controlled key routes between the Transjordan plateau and the Jordan Valley. The city appears in Moabite records (Mesha Stele) and prophetic oracles (Isaiah 16:8-9, Jeremiah 48:32).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What differences exist between wise reconnaissance and fearful hesitation in your spiritual battles?
2. How has spiritual maturity changed your response to challenging opportunities from fear to faith-filled action?
3. Where might God be calling you to spy out territory He intends you to possess rather than just survey?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁלַח	מֹשֶׁה	לְרַגֵּל	אֶת	יַעֲזֵר	וְ	וַלָּקְדוּ	בְּנֵי יִה
sent	And Moses	to spy out	H853	Jaazer	and they took		the villages
H7971	H4872	H7270		H3270	H3920		H1323
וְיִירָשׁ	אֶת	הָאֲמֹרִי	י	אֲשֶׁר	שָׁם:		
thereof and drove out	H853	the Amorites		H834	H8033		
H3423		H567					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 48:32 (Parallel theme): O vine of Sibmah, I will weep for thee with the weeping of Jazer: thy plants are gone over the sea, they reach even to the sea of Jazer: the spoiler is fallen upon thy summer fruits and upon thy vintage.

Numbers 32:1 (Parallel theme): Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of cattle: and when they saw the land of Jazer, and the land of Gilead, that, behold, the place was a place for cattle;

Numbers 32:35 (Parallel theme): And Atroth, Shophan, and Jaazer, and Jogbehah,