

# Numbers 33:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they departed from Moseroth, and pitched in Bene-jaakan.

## Analysis

---

**Departed from Moseroth, and pitched in Bene-jaakan—** בְּנֵי יָקָן (Benē Ya'ăqān, 'sons of Jaakan'). This station preserves the name of an Edomite clan (Genesis 36:27), indicating Israel's proximity to kinsmen-turned-enemies. Edom refused Israel passage (20:14-21), forcing the circuitous desert route.

The presence of Edomite settlements along Israel's path illustrates God's meticulous sovereignty—He could have given Israel military victory over Esau's descendants, but commanded restraint (Deuteronomy 2:4-5). Divine providence sometimes means the longer, harder road that respects familial ties, foreshadowing Christ's teaching on loving enemies.

## Historical Context

---

Jaakan (also called Akan) was a Horite chieftain in Edom (1 Chronicles 1:42). Israel's interactions with Edom during the Exodus period were fraught with tension, as blood relations (descendants of Jacob and Esau) became political adversaries.

## Related Passages

---

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

---

1. Why would God command Israel to take the difficult route around Edom rather than conquer them?
2. How does Israel's restraint toward Edom inform New Testament ethics of non-retaliation?

## Interlinear Text

---

וַיַּעֲזַב אֶת מָסֵר וְתַּחַת בְּרֵית יְהוָה בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב  
And they departed from Moseroth and pitched H0 in Benejaakan  
H5265 H4149 H2583 H1142

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Deuteronomy 10:6** (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel took their journey from Beeroth of the children of Jaakan to Mosera: there Aaron died, and there he was buried; and Eleazar his son ministered in the priest's office in his stead.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)