

Numbers 33:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they departed from Iim, and pitched in Dibon-gad.

Analysis

They departed from Iim, and pitched in Dibon-gad — (וַיַּעֲזַב מֵעַם יִקְרָב בְּדִיבָּן גָּד) Iim is the shortened form of Ije-abarim (v. 44). Dibon-gad combines the Moabite city name Dibon ("wasting" or "pining") with the Israelite tribe Gad, suggesting this territory would soon belong to Gad's inheritance (Numbers 32:34). The name-pairing reveals prophetic confidence: Israel names camps with future-tense faith.

Dibon was a significant Moabite city (later mentioned on the Mesha Stele), yet Israel camps there with the certainty that Gad will rebuild it. This demonstrates the power of faith to see present reality through the lens of God's future promises. As Hebrews 11:1 defines: "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Israel's nomenclature declared victory before battle, inheritance before conquest.

Historical Context

Dibon-gad was located about 4 miles north of the Arnon River in modern Jordan (Dhiban). After defeating Sihon king of the Amorites (Numbers 21:21-31), Israel controlled this region. The tribe of Gad requested and received this Transjordan territory (Numbers 32:1-5, 34), rebuilding Dibon as "Dibon-gad." Archaeological excavations confirm Bronze/Iron Age occupation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. In what areas of your life might God be calling you to speak with "future-tense faith," declaring His promises before they materialize?
2. How does naming this place "Dibon-gad" before Gad possessed it challenge your tendency to wait for certainty before exercising faith?
3. What inheritance has God promised you that requires naming and claiming by faith before you see physical fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּסֹעַ וְ	מִצְעָם	וְיִצְחַן אֶת	בְּדִיבָּר	בְּדִיבָּר	בְּדִיבָּר
And they departed	from Iim	and pitched	in Dibongad		
H5265	H5864	H2583	H1769		H1410

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