

# Numbers 35:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto Moses in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho, saying,

## Analysis

**And the LORD spake unto Moses in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho**—This location (עֲרֵב וְתֵּמָנָה, 'arəḇôt mō'āḇ) marks the end of the wilderness wandering, with Israel poised to enter Canaan. The phrase 'the LORD spake' (waydabber YHWH) introduces crucial legislation about Levitical cities and cities of refuge (chapters 35)—practical arrangements for the coming settled life.

The geographical precision ('by Jordan near Jericho') emphasizes imminent fulfillment of the Abrahamic promise. After forty years of wandering, Israel stands at the threshold. The timing shows God's concern for practical holiness: before conquest, establish justice systems. These cities would ensure both Levitical support and equitable justice, preventing blood feuds from corrupting the land.

## Historical Context

The plains of Moab were located on the east side of the Jordan River across from Jericho, in modern-day Jordan. Israel camped here for several months (Numbers 22-36), during which Moses received final legislation, blessed the tribes, and prepared Joshua for leadership. This was circa 1406 BC, the fortieth year after the Exodus. The first generation that left Egypt had died in the wilderness.

## Related Passages

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. What 'systems of justice' or practical structures does God want you to establish before entering your next season?
2. How does God's attention to practical details (cities, measurements, legal processes) challenge any dichotomy between 'spiritual' and 'practical' matters?
3. What promises of God are you 'on the threshold' of seeing fulfilled, and how are you preparing?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיָּבֶר	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	בְּעֶרְבַת	מוֹאָב	עַל
spake	And the LORD	H413	unto Moses	in the plains	of Moab	H5921
H1696	H3068		H4872	H6160	H4124	
יַרְדֵּן	יְרִיחוֹ	לֵאמֹר:				
by Jordan	near Jericho	saying				
H3383	H3405	H559				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 22:1** (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho.