

# 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

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**And the LORD spake unto Moses in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho**—This location (בְּמִזְרָחֵן עַרְבָּה, 'arəbōt mō'āb) 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

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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

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**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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עַל מוֹאָב בְּעֶרֶב תִּמְשַׁח הָאָל יְהִי הָר יְהוָה ר  
spake And the LORD H413 unto Moses in the plains of Moab H5921  
H1696 H3068 H4872 H6160 H4124

לֹאָמַר: יְרֵחָה יְרִיחָה  
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.