

# 1 Samuel 30:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way.

## Analysis

The Amalekites' unusual restraint in taking captives rather than killing presents a theological puzzle. The Hebrew 'lo hemitu' (they did not kill) indicates deliberate decision. This mercy may reflect slave-trade economics (living captives were valuable) or divine providence preserving lives for rescue. The phrase 'carried them away' (Hebrew: 'wayyinhagu') suggests forced march with captives, including women and children. What appeared as disaster contained the seeds of restoration.

## Historical Context

The slave trade was significant in the ancient Near East. Living captives, especially women and children, could be sold in Egyptian or Arabian markets. The Amalekites' commercial motivations inadvertently preserved the families for rescue.

## Related Passages

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

### Study Questions

---

1. When has apparent disaster contained hidden provisions for recovery?
2. How do even enemies' self-interested choices sometimes serve God's protective purposes?

### Interlinear Text

---

אֶת יָשְׁבֵ אֶת הַנָּשָׁה יָמָן אֲשֶׁר בָּה מִקְטָן יְעַד

captives H853 And had taken the women H834 or small H5704

H7617

H802

H6996

לֹא יָלַד וְלֹא

either great H3808 that were therein they slew not any but carried them away

H1419

H4191

H376

H5090

לִלְכֵדְםָן לִלְכֵד

H1980

on their way

H1870

### Additional Cross-References

---

**1 Samuel 27:11** (Parallel theme): And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring tidings to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so will be his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Philistines.