

1 Samuel 30:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.

Analysis

The scene of David and his men encountering the burning ruins of their home emphasizes complete devastation. The Hebrew construction 'hineh seruphah ba'esh' (behold, burned with fire) captures the visual shock. The threefold loss, 'wives, sons, and daughters,' encompasses the entire domestic sphere. For ancient warriors, whose purpose centered on protecting family, this represented total failure. The men who followed David as protector found their trust apparently betrayed by his absence during the raid.

Historical Context

Returning warriors finding their settlement destroyed was an ancient nightmare. The complete vulnerability of undefended settlements made protection of home the primary obligation of fighting men.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you process discovering that what you left protected has been destroyed?
2. What does it feel like to fail in your most fundamental responsibilities?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּבֹא אֶל הָעִיר וְהִנֵּה שָׂרוּף הָיָה
came **So David** H376 H413 **to the city** H2009 **and behold it was burned**
H935 H1732 H5892 H8313

וְנָשָׂאֵם וּבָנֵיהֶם וּבָנִיתֵיהֶם
with fire **and their wives** **and their sons** **and their daughters** **were taken captives**
H784 H802 H1121 H1323 H7617

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 34:19 (Parallel theme): Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.