

Deuteronomy 2:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Only the cattle we took for a prey unto ourselves, and the spoil of the cities which we took.

Analysis

The preservation of resources—"only the cattle we took for a prey unto ourselves, and the spoil of the cities"—shows that herem targeted moral corruption, not economic destruction. Material goods could be purified and repurposed for God's people. This distinction teaches that not everything in the world is irredeemable—some things can be sanctified and used for holy purposes once separated from corrupting influences.

Historical Context

Taking livestock and goods provided practical resources for Israel's sustenance and upcoming settlement. This differed from Jericho (Joshua 6:17-19) where everything was devoted to God or destroyed. The variation in herem application shows God's commands fit specific circumstances—principles remain consistent while applications vary according to divine direction.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What resources in your life can be redeemed and repurposed for God's glory?
2. How do you discern between what must be completely rejected and what can be sanctified?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׂלַל לְכָנָה בְּכָל
H7535 Only the cattle we took for a prey H929 H962 H0 unto ourselves and the spoil
of the cities H834 which we took
H5892 H3920

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