

Deuteronomy 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And we utterly destroyed them, as we did unto Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children, of every city.

Analysis

The phrase 'we utterly destroyed them, as we did unto Sihon' indicates the fulfillment of herem (devoted to destruction), applied consistently across conquered territories. The comprehensive nature—'utterly destroying the men, women, and children, of every city'—reflects God's judgment on deeply corrupted Canaanite culture. This severe measure prevented the moral and spiritual contamination that would later plague Israel when they failed to complete God's commands.

Historical Context

Herem warfare, though difficult for modern readers, served specific purposes: judgment on incorrigibly wicked nations (Genesis 15:16), protection of Israel's spiritual purity, and demonstration of sin's seriousness. The Canaanite cultures practiced child sacrifice, temple prostitution, and other abominations that God deemed worthy of complete judgment.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How seriously do you take sin's corrupting influence in your life?
2. What compromises with evil seem small but threaten spiritual integrity?

Interlinear Text

וְהָרַסְנוּ	אֹתָם	כְּאֲשֶׁר	עָשׂוּ	לְסִיחֹן	מֶלֶךְ
And we utterly destroyed	H853	H834	them as we did	unto Sihon	king
H2763			H6213	H5511	H4428
וְהָרַסְנוּ	אֹתָם	כְּאֲשֶׁר	עָשׂוּ	לְסִיחֹן	מֶלֶךְ
of Heshbon	And we utterly destroyed	H3605	of every city	the men	women
H2809	H2763		H5892	H4962	H802
וְהָרַסְנוּ	אֹתָם	כְּאֲשֶׁר	עָשׂוּ	לְסִיחֹן	מֶלֶךְ
and children					
H2945					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 2:34 (Parallel theme): And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain:

Deuteronomy 2:24 (Kingdom): Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle.