

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

וְנִסְחַרְמָה	וְנִסְחַרְמָה	כִּאֵשׁ	רַא	אֹתֶם	עָשָׂו	יְנֻכוּ	לְסִיחָה	לְגָג
And we utterly destroyed					them as we did		unto Sihon	king
H2763		H853		H834	H6213		H5511	H4428
וְנִשְׁבַּבְתִּי	וְנִשְׁבַּבְתִּי	כָּל	עַיִר	מִתְמַמָּה	הַנְּשָׁאָה	יְמָמָת	יְמָמָת	וְנִשְׁבַּבְתִּי
of Heshbon	And we utterly destroyed	H3605		H5892	of every city	the men	women	
H2809	H2763				H4962			H802
וְנִתְבְּרַא								
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.