

# Deuteronomy 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But all the cattle, and the spoil of the cities, we took for a prey to ourselves.

## Analysis

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The exception clause 'But all the cattle, and the spoil of the cities, we took for a prey to ourselves' shows that while human life was judged, material resources were preserved for Israel's use. This distinction reveals that herem targeted moral corruption, not economic destruction. God's provision included utilizing the enemy's resources to bless His people—turning judgment on evil into blessing for the righteous.

## Historical Context

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Taking livestock and goods as spoil provided necessary resources for a nomadic people preparing to settle the land. This practice (permitted in Transjordan but restricted in Canaan proper) gave Israel economic foundation while eliminating the human sources of religious corruption.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does God sometimes provide for you through the defeat of spiritual enemies?
2. What resources in your life should be consecrated to God's purposes rather than destroyed?

## Interlinear Text

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וְכָל	הַבְּהֵמָה הַ	וְשָׁלַל ל	הָעִיר יָם	בְּזָנוּנוּ	לָנוּ:
H3605	<b>But all the cattle</b>	<b>and the spoil</b>	<b>of the cities</b>	<b>we took for a prey</b>	H0
	H929	H7998	H5892	H962	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 2:35** (Parallel theme): Only the cattle we took for a prey unto ourselves, and the spoil of the cities which we took.