

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

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

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

לְכָל כְּבָתָם הַשְׁלֵל בְּבָתָם יְמֵינוּ בְּזַרְעָם וְנָנוּ:
 H3605 But all the cattle H929 and the spoil H7998 of the cities H5892 we took for a prey H962 H0

Additional Cross-References

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

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