

Deuteronomy 31:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed.

Analysis

And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites—Moses references recent history as proof of future victory. Sihon ruled Heshbon, Og ruled Bashan; both attacked Israel and were utterly destroyed (Numbers 21:21-35; Deuteronomy 2:26-3:11). These victories demonstrated Yahweh's power over supposedly invincible foes—Og was a giant of the Rephaim remnant, and both kings had fortified cities and powerful armies. **Whom he destroyed** (asher hishmadtem)—the verb shamad appears again, emphasizing complete conquest.

This appeal to precedent serves pastoral and theological purposes. Pastorally, it encourages Israel facing the intimidating Canaanite coalition—if God defeated Sihon and Og, He can defeat any enemy. Theologically, it establishes the pattern of divine warfare: God fights for Israel; Israel participates in His victory. The Canaanite conquest isn't human imperialism but divine judgment executed through human agency. Paul applies this principle spiritually in Romans 8:37 and 2 Corinthians 2:14—past victories guarantee future conquest through Christ.

Historical Context

Sihon and Og's defeats occurred just months earlier in the fortieth year (Numbers 21, circa 1407 BC). These were Israel's first major military victories since leaving Egypt. Sihon controlled the Transjordan from the Arnon River to the Jabbok; Og

ruled Bashan north of the Jabbok with sixty fortified cities. Their kingdoms became the inheritance of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh. Archaeological evidence confirms destruction layers at several Transjordanian sites dating to the late Bronze Age, consistent with these conquests.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do past spiritual victories strengthen your faith for current battles?
2. What 'giants' (seemingly invincible obstacles) do you face that God has already proven He can defeat?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא וְגַם לְסִיחַ זָנָן עָשָׂה הָיָה יְהֹוָה מְלָאֵךְ רְאֵשׁ הַמִּזְבֵּחַ

shall do And the LORD H0 H834 shall do to Sihon and to Og

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וְלֹא וְגַם לְסִיחַ זָנָן עָשָׂה הָיָה יְהֹוָה מְלָאֵךְ רְאֵשׁ הַמִּזְבֵּחַ

kings of the Amorites and unto the land of them whom he destroyed

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