

Deuteronomy 31:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you.

Analysis

And the LORD shall give them up before your face (וַתֵּתֵן יְהוָה לְפָנֶיךָ unetanam YHWH lifneikhem)—natan (give, deliver) emphasizes divine agency in victory. God delivers the Canaanites into Israel's hand; they don't conquer through superior military might. **That ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you**—Israel's military action must conform to Torah stipulations regarding warfare (Deuteronomy 7:1-5, 20:10-18).

This verse balances divine sovereignty and human responsibility. God gives the victory (sovereignty), but Israel must act in obedience (responsibility). They cannot claim God fights for them while disobeying His commands. The Canaanite conquest was holy war with strict ethical boundaries: spare fruit trees (20:19-20), offer terms of peace to distant cities (20:10-15), execute herem (devotion to destruction) only on Canaanite nations within the land (20:16-18). This wasn't license for brutality but disciplined execution of divine judgment.

Historical Context

The conquest occurred 1406-1399 BC (traditional dating) under Joshua's leadership. Israel's initial victories (Jericho, Ai, the southern and northern campaigns) were dramatic, but complete conquest took generations (Judges 1-2). Israel's failure to fully obey the "commandments" regarding Canaanite elimination led to persistent idolatry and the judge cycles. The command to destroy Canaanite

religion was protective, not xenophobic—syncretism proved Israel's downfall exactly as Moses warned.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you balance trusting God's sovereignty with fulfilling your responsibility to obey His commands?
2. What areas of 'incomplete conquest' in your spiritual life allow sin to remain and cause ongoing problems?

Interlinear Text

וְנָתַן ׀	יְהוָה ׀	לְפָנֶיךָ ׀	וַעֲשִׂיתָ ׀	לָּהּ ׀	כָּכָל ׀
shall give them up	And the LORD	before your face	that ye may do	H0	H3605
H5414	H3068	H6440	H6213		
	הַמִּצְוֹת ׀	אֲשֶׁר ׀	צִוִּיתִי		
unto them according	unto all the commandments	H834	which I have commanded		
	H4687		H6680		
אֶתְכֶם׃					
H853					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 7:2 (References Lord): And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

