

Exodus 17:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Analysis

And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword—The victory is complete: Joshua 'discomfited' (שָׁלַח, chalash, 'weakened, defeated') Amalek utterly. The phrase 'with the edge of the sword' indicates thorough military victory, yet verse 11 makes clear this resulted from Moses' intercession, not Joshua's military prowess alone. This dual causation—divine intervention and human action—characterizes all biblical victory. God ordains both means (Joshua's sword) and cause (Moses' prayer). The complete victory prefigures Christ's decisive defeat of Satan through the cross (Col 2:15), though believers still fight residual battles against defeated enemy. Joshua's military success combined with Moses' intercessory faithfulness pictures the church militant and triumphant.

Historical Context

This decisive victory over Amalek established Israel's military credibility and demonstrated that YHWH, not Pharaoh's army, would fight for them in conquest of Canaan.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does victory through both prayer (Moses) and action (Joshua) combat passivity or works-righteousness in spiritual warfare?
2. What does Amalek's defeat prefigure about Christ's victory over Satan, though battles continue?

Interlinear Text

וְחָלַשׁ	וַיְהוֹשֻׁעַ	אֶת	עַמְלֵךְ	וְאֶת	עַמּוֹ	לְפִי
discomfited	And Joshua	H853	Amalek	H853	and his people	with the edge
H2522	H3091		H6002		H5971	H6310

חֶרֶב:
of the sword
H2719

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 10:42 (Parallel theme): And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.