

Exodus 17:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

Analysis

And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua—This is Scripture's first explicit command to write, establishing written Scripture's authority. The verb 'write' (כָּתַב, katav) and 'memorial' (זִכָּרוֹן, zikaron) show God ensures permanent record of His promises and judgments. The dual instruction—write for posterity, rehearse to Joshua—combines written and oral transmission. Joshua must know that God has decreed Amalek's utter destruction: 'I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.' This prophetic declaration spans centuries (fulfilled partly under Saul and David) and ultimately prefigures final judgment. The command to write also establishes Moses as Scripture's first human author under divine inspiration.

Historical Context

This written memorial became part of Torah. Amalek's destruction was commanded again in Deuteronomy 25:19 and partially fulfilled under Saul (1 Samuel 15) and David (1 Samuel 30).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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2 Samuel 8:12 (Parallel theme): Of Syria, and of Moab, and of the children of Ammon, and of the Philistines, and of Amalek, and of the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

Job 18:17 (Parallel theme): His remembrance shall perish from the earth, and he shall have no name in the street.

Exodus 12:14 (References Lord): And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

Exodus 13:9 (References Lord): And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt.

Exodus 24:4 (References Lord): And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.