

Exodus 34:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face.

Analysis

God will send 'hornets' (צִרְעָה, tsir'ah—literally hornets/wasps) before Israel to drive out enemies. This may be literal insects, metaphorical for plague/panic, or symbolic of Egyptian/Assyrian military campaigns that weakened Canaan before conquest. Regardless of interpretation, the point is clear: God uses natural and supernatural means to accomplish His purposes. Israel's task is to follow, not to create, victory.

Historical Context

This promise appears three times (Ex 23:28, Deut 7:20, Josh 24:12). Canaan was indeed weakened by Egyptian campaigns in the Late Bronze Age. Archaeological evidence shows destroyed cities and declining populations before Israel's arrival.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How has God 'prepared the way' for you in circumstances you didn't orchestrate?
2. What does it mean that God uses both ordinary means (natural events) and extraordinary means (miracles) to accomplish His will?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּכְּ ל	מֹשֶׁה	מִדְּבַר	אֶת	וְעִם	עַל	פָּנָיו
had done	And till Moses	speaking	H854	with them he put	H5921	on his face
H3615	H4872	H1696		H5414		H6440
מִסְוָה:						
a veil						
H4533						