

Joshua 10:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel, which took it on the second day, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that were therein, according to all that he had done to Libnah.

Analysis

And the LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel, which took it on the second day—once again, the text emphasizes divine agency: "the LORD delivered." Lachish's fall "on the second day" (bayom hasheni, בַּיּוֹם הַשְׁנִי) marks the campaign's first multi-day siege. Ancient sieges typically lasted weeks, months, or even years (2 Kings 17:5; 25:1-2). A two-day conquest of such a formidable fortress demonstrated supernatural intervention, not merely superior tactics. God compressed time as He had compressed space (the sun standing still, vv. 12-14).

And smote it with the edge of the sword, and all the souls that were therein, according to all that he had done to Libnah—the repetitive formula continues, creating liturgical rhythm in the narrative. Each city receives identical treatment, demonstrating impartial justice. The phrase "according to all" (kechol, כָּל) emphasizes comprehensive conformity to the established pattern. Joshua didn't improvise or show favoritism; he applied God's commands consistently.

From a theological perspective, this consistency prefigures Christ's role as Judge. Just as Joshua executed identical judgment on each rebellious city, Christ will judge all humanity by the same standard—His perfect righteousness (Acts 17:31; Romans 2:5-11). The herem on Canaan typologically foreshadows final judgment when all wickedness faces complete eradication (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation

20:11-15). Yet for those in Christ, judgment fell on the Cross, where Jesus endured the herem we deserved (Galatians 3:13).

Historical Context

Archaeological excavations at Tell ed-Duweir (Lachish) reveal Late Bronze Age destruction layers showing evidence of violent conquest—burned buildings, collapsed walls, and destruction debris consistent with military assault rather than gradual decline. The massive fortification walls, though imposing, fell within two days, demonstrating the limitations of human defenses against divine judgment.

Lachish's strategic location controlling the Shephelah made it a prize worth securing quickly. The city sat at the junction of major trade routes connecting coastal via Maris to the hill country and Negev routes to the south. Its conquest secured Israel's southwestern flank and prevented Canaanite counterattacks from regrouping in this strategic fortress. Later, Rehoboam would recognize Lachish's importance by strengthening its fortifications (2 Chronicles 11:5-12).

The phrase "on the second day" also demonstrates Joshua's tactical acumen. Rather than accepting protracted siege warfare that would bog down the campaign and allow other cities to prepare or counterattack, Joshua pressed the assault aggressively. Aggressive action, coupled with divine aid, achieved rapid results that maintained campaign momentum. This principle—striking decisively rather than allowing enemies to regroup—characterized Joshua's entire southern campaign.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's compression of Lachish's siege timeline from months to two days encourage you when facing entrenched strongholds that seem immovable?
2. What does the consistent application of judgment to each city teach about God's impartiality and the certainty of His promised judgments?
3. How does viewing the Canaanite *herem* as typological prefiguration of final judgment help you appreciate Christ's substitutionary atonement on the cross?

Interlinear Text

תַּלְכִּידָה יִשְׂרָאֵל לְכִי יְהוָה הַיּוֹתֶר
delivered And the LORD H853 Lachish into the hand of Israel which took
H5414 H3068 H3923 H3027 H3478 H3920

כָּל יִאָתֶת חַדְבָּבָה בְּיַם פְּשָׁתִי לְפִי
day it on the second and smote it with the edge of the sword H853 H3605
H3117 H8145 H5221 H6310 H2719

אֲשֶׁר כִּכְלָבָה בְּהַבְּנָה פָּשָׁת
and all the souls H834 H0 H3605 H834
H5315

לִלְבָנָה:
that were therein according to all that he had done to Libnah
H6213 H3841

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org