

# Joshua 10:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And from Lachish Joshua passed unto Eglon, and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it, and fought against it:

## Analysis

**And from Lachish Joshua passed unto Eglon, and all Israel with him**—the relentless pace continues: "from Lachish...unto Eglon." No pause for rest or celebration; the campaign pressed forward while psychological momentum favored Israel. Eglon (עִלְוֹן) possibly derives from egel (עֵגֶל, "calf"), suggesting the city may have been associated with calf worship or cattle-raising, though this remains speculative. The city's precise location remains disputed among archaeologists, with Tell el-Hesi and Tell Aitun as leading candidates.

The threefold repetition "and they encamped against it, and fought against it" echoes the pattern established at Lachish (v. 31), showing methodical military procedure. Ancient siege warfare required establishing camps to prevent resupply, cutting off water sources, and preparing assault equipment. The verb lacham (לָחַם, "fought") uses the Niphal stem, indicating intense, engaged combat—not distant bombardment but close-quarters battle requiring courage and endurance.

The persistent phrase "and all Israel with him" (appearing in vv. 29, 31, 34, 36, 38, 43) functions as a liturgical refrain emphasizing covenant unity. The conquest was not Joshua's private venture but corporate national action. This communal aspect prefigures the church's corporate nature—spiritual warfare is not individualistic but requires the body of Christ working in unity (Ephesians 6:10-18; Hebrews 10:24-25).

## Historical Context

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Eglon's identification remains debated. Tell el-Hesi, excavated extensively in the late 19th century, shows Late Bronze Age occupation and destruction, making it a plausible candidate. However, Tell Aitun near Khirbet Ajlan also presents viable archaeological evidence. This uncertainty reflects the challenges of correlating biblical texts with archaeological remains—many ancient city names were lost over time, and tell identification often relies on circumstantial evidence.

Eglon participated in the five-king coalition against Gibeon (Joshua 10:3-5), placing it firmly within the southern Canaanite alliance structure. The city controlled strategic territory in the southern Shephelah, and its conquest further secured Israel's southwestern frontier. Like other Shephelah cities, Eglon sat astride routes connecting the coastal plain to the hill country, making it militarily significant despite potentially small size.

The rapid succession of conquests—Makkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Eglon—accomplished in perhaps a week demonstrates the campaign's extraordinary speed. Ancient armies typically moved slowly due to logistical constraints, but Israel's relatively light equipment (compared to chariot-heavy Canaanite forces) and divine provision enabled rapid maneuver. Speed itself became a weapon, preventing enemies from regrouping or establishing coordinated defense.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Joshua's relentless forward momentum, moving immediately from one victory to the next, challenge any tendency toward spiritual complacency after victories?
2. What does the methodical repetition "encamped...fought" teach about combining disciplined preparation with bold action in spiritual warfare?
3. How does the phrase 'all Israel with him' challenge individualistic approaches to Christian living and ministry?

## Interlinear Text

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וַעֲבָרָה	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	וְכָל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	עִמּוֹ	מִלָּכֶּיֶשׁ	עֲגֹל נָה
passed	Joshua	H3605	and all Israel	H5973	And from Lachish	unto Eglon
H5674	H3091		H3478		H3923	H5700
וְעִמָּו		עַל יָדָהּ	וְלָחֶמּוֹ	עָלֶיהָ:		
with him and they encamped		H5921	against it and fought	H5921		
H2583			H3898			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 10:3** (Parallel theme): Wherefore Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent unto Hoham king of Hebron, and unto Piram king of Jarmuth, and unto Japhia king of Lachish, and unto Debir king of Eglon, saying,