

Joshua 10:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.

Analysis

All these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time—The phrase "at one time" (pa'am 'echad, פַּעַם אֶחָד) emphasizes the swift, unified nature of this southern campaign. Unlike the forty years of wilderness wandering, when obedience replaced disobedience, conquest replaced defeat. Multiple Canaanite city-states fell in rapid succession because of divine intervention, not merely military superiority.

Because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel—This theological explanation is central: YHWH Elohei Yisrael lacham l'Yisrael (יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל נִלְחָם לְיִשְׂרָאֵל). The verb lacham (נִלְחָם) means "to fight, to wage war." Israel's God was not a passive deity but an active warrior who fought for His people. This echoes Exodus 14:14 ("The LORD shall fight for you") and anticipates the New Covenant reality that Christ has won the victory and fights for His church (Romans 8:31-37).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern warfare typically involved lengthy sieges and protracted campaigns. The rapid conquest described here was militarily extraordinary, requiring divine intervention to explain. Egyptian records from this period show Canaan divided into numerous city-states, each with its own king, making unified resistance difficult but conquest of all simultaneously nearly impossible without supernatural aid.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that 'the LORD fought for Israel' change your perspective on battles you face?
2. What is the relationship between human responsibility (Joshua's military leadership) and divine sovereignty (God fighting for Israel)?
3. In what ways does Christ fight for believers today in spiritual warfare?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֵּי	כָּל	הַמְּלָכִים	וְאֵת	הָאֲרֶצַּח	לָקַח
H853	H3605	And all these kings	H428	and their land	take
		H4428		H776	H3920
וַיִּהְיֶה	בְּעֵת	אֶחָד	כִּי	יָהוָה	לְיִשְׂרָאֵל:
did Joshua	time	at one	H3588	because the LORD	God
H3091	H6471	H259		H3068	H430
					for Israel
					H3478
וַיִּלָּחֶם	לְיִשְׂרָאֵל:				
fought	for Israel				
H3898	H3478				

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 10:14 (References Lord): And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

Psalms 46:7 (References God): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Psalms 80:3 (References God): Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine;
and we shall be saved.

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