

Joshua 10:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he, and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valour.

Analysis

Joshua's immediate response: 'So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he, and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valour.' The verb 'ascended' (alah, אָלָה) indicates upward movement—Gibeon sat higher than Gilgal geographically and perhaps suggesting spiritual significance (ascending to obey covenant). The phrase 'all the people of war' indicates full mobilization—no token force but complete military commitment. The addition 'all the mighty men of valour' (gibborei hachayil, גִּבּוֹרֵי הַחַיִּיל) emphasizes elite warriors' participation. Joshua didn't send subordinates but personally led with full force. This demonstrates covenant faithfulness: despite deception, despite potential danger, Israel honors treaty obligations. The Reformed principle applies: covenant faithfulness reflects God's character, not circumstances or feelings. The rapid response also shows urgency—no deliberation or excuse-making, but immediate obedience to covenant duty.

Historical Context

The march from Gilgal to Gibeon covered about twenty-five miles through difficult terrain—ascending from Jordan Valley into central highlands (roughly 3,500 feet elevation gain). Ancient armies could cover fifteen-twenty miles per day under forced march conditions. Joshua's full mobilization meant leading possibly 40,000+ fighting men (based on Numbers census figures adjusted for casualties and growth). This wasn't a quick raid but major military operation requiring logistics, coordination, and endurance. The fact that he moved immediately, taking all

warriors including elite troops, shows he understood the strategic importance and covenant obligation. The phrase 'mighty men of valour' likely refers to experienced, proven warriors—perhaps those who fought at Jericho and Ai. Their participation assured success. The march's difficulty (nighttime, verse 9; uphill; long distance) tested troops' commitment. Yet they responded, reflecting leadership's integrity and covenant priority. Ancient armies' willingness to march reflected confidence in commanders and cause. Israel's response demonstrated both.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does Joshua's immediate, full commitment teach about responding to covenant obligations?
2. How does taking personal responsibility (rather than delegating) model leadership integrity?
3. When has God called you to difficult obedience requiring immediate, complete response?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲלֶה	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	מִן	הַגִּלְגָּל	הָיָא	וְכָל	עַם
ascended	So Joshua	H4480	from Gilgal	H1931	H3605	he and all the people
H5927	H3091		H1537			H5971
הַמִּלְחָמָה	עִמּוֹ	וְכָל	גִּבּוֹרֵי	הַחַיִּל:		
of war	H5973	H3605	with him and all the mighty	men of valour		
H4421			H1368	H2428		

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 8:1 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land: