

Joshua 11:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the cities of those kings, and all the kings of them, did Joshua take, and smote them with the edge of the sword, and he utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD commanded.

Analysis

All the cities of those kings, and all the kings of them, did Joshua take—The comprehensive victory over multiple city-states fulfilled God's promise to give Israel the land. The verb **take** (לָכַד, lakhad, capture/seize) emphasizes military conquest, while **utterly destroyed** (הָחֵרִים, hecherim) again invokes herem devotion to God.

As Moses the servant of the LORD commanded—This phrase anchors Joshua's actions in covenantal obedience, not personal vendetta. The title **servant of the LORD** (עֶבֶד יְהוָה, eved YHWH) appears 40 times for Moses, emphasizing that conquest fulfilled divine mandate transmitted through His chosen mediator. Joshua's obedience to Moses's instruction (from Deuteronomy 7:2, 20:16-17) demonstrates covenant continuity across leadership transitions. God's commands don't change with new administration.

Historical Context

This verse summarizes the northern campaign's totality—dozens of city-states subjugated. The reference to Moses's command points to Deuteronomy 7:1-5 and 20:16-18, given 40 years earlier on the plains of Moab. Joshua's faithful execution decades later shows how God's word remains authoritative across generations.

The northern conquest completed the military phase of land acquisition begun at Jericho.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain faithfulness to God's word across different seasons and leadership changes in your life?
2. What does it mean to act in obedience to divine commands given through previous generations of faithful believers?
3. How does Joshua's submission to Moses's authority model proper respect for God's delegated leadership?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	וְאֵת	עָרֵי	מְלָכִיָּה	וְאֵת	הָאֱלֹהִים	כָּל
H853	H3605			H428	H853	H3605
		And all the cities	and all the kings			
		H5892	H4428			
מְלָכִיָּה	לָקַח	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	וַיַּךְ	לָפִי		
H4428	H3920	H3091	H5221	H6310		
and all the kings	take	of them did Joshua	and smote	them with the edge		
חֶרֶב	וְהָרַג	אֹתָם	כְּאִשְׁרֵי	צִוָּה		
H2719	H2763	H853	H834	H6680		
of the sword	and he utterly destroyed			commanded		
מֹשֶׁה	עַבְדְּ	יְהוָה:				
H4872	H5650	H3068				
them as Moses	the servant	of the LORD				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 7:2 (References Lord): And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

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