

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** (לְכַד, lakhad, capture/seize) emphasizes military conquest, while **utterly destroyed** (הַמְּדֻרִים, 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** (עבד יהוה, 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 מְלָכִים וְאֶלְהָה וְאֶת כָּל עָרִים
H853 H3605 And all the cities and all the kings H428 H853 H3605

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| לְפִי | וְכָמָה | יְהוֹשֻׁעַ | לְכָד | מֶלֶכִים | and all the kings | take | of them did Joshua | and smote | them with the edge |
| H4428 | H3029 | H3001 | H5221 | H6210 | | | | | |

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|--------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| כִּי־בָּבָשׂ | קָרְבָּן | מִתְּבָשֵׂל | רְאֵשֶׁת־מִתְּבָשֵׂל | מִתְּבָשֵׂל־רְאֵשֶׁת | מִתְּבָשֵׂל־רְאֵשֶׁת־כִּי־בָּבָשׂ |
| of the sword | and he utterly destroyed | | H853 | H834 | commanded |

יְהִי־
בְּדַע־
מֹשֶׁה
עֲשֵׂה
אֲלֵיכֶם

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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