

Joshua 11:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Joshua came, and all the people of war with him, against them by the waters of Merom suddenly; and they fell upon them.

Analysis

So Joshua came, and all the people of war with him, against them by the waters of Merom suddenly—The adverb **suddenly** (מַתָּהָר, pit'om) emphasizes the shock attack God commanded (v. 6: 'Be not afraid'). Despite facing superior technology and numbers, Joshua's obedient aggression demonstrates faith in God's promise of victory.

They fell upon them (לִעְלָה, nafal al)—This military idiom describes a devastating assault. The surprise attack neutralized the coalition's chariot advantage by engaging them before they could deploy in battle formation. Faith and obedience often require aggressive action at God's command, not passive waiting. As Moses told Israel at the Red Sea: 'The LORD shall fight for you' (Exodus 14:14)—but Joshua still had to march his army forward.

Historical Context

Joshua's surprise attack likely came at dawn after a forced night march from Gilgal (70+ miles). By striking before the coalition could organize their chariots in open formation, Israel negated their technological disadvantage. This tactical brilliance, combined with divine intervention, became the template for Gideon's later midnight attack (Judges 7).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. When has God called you to bold, immediate action despite feeling outmatched?
2. How does obedient aggression differ from presumption in spiritual warfare?
3. What 'superior forces' in your life require a sudden, faith-filled assault rather than cautious planning?

Interlinear Text

עַלְיָהּ מִעֵד וְבַמְלֹאת הַעַמְּדָה
came So Joshua and all the people of war H5921
H935 H3091 H3605 H5971 H4421 H5973
עַל מִן מִרְאֵם פָּתַח מִרְאֵם וְיָפַל וְיָפַל
with him against them by the waters of Merom suddenly and they fell upon H5307
H5921 H4325 H4792 H6597 H507
בְּגִלְגָּל

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 10:9 (Parallel theme): Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night.