

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** (פִּתְאוֹם, 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 (נָפַל אֲלֵיהֶם, 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

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------|
| וַיָּבֹא אֵלָיו | וַיְהִי כִּי | וַיָּבֹא | וְכָל | עַם | הַמִּלְחָמָה | וְעַמּוֹ | עָלֶיהָ |
| came | So Joshua | | | and all the people | of war | | |
| H935 | H3091 | | H3605 | H5971 | H4421 | H5973 | H5921 |
| עַל | בְּיָדוֹ | וְעַל | הַמַּיִם | וְעַל | מֶרֶם | וְעַל | וְעַל |
| H5921 | | with him against them by the waters | | of Merom | suddenly | and they fell upon | |
| | | H4325 | | H4792 | H6597 | H5307 | |
| וַיָּבֹא | | | | | | | |
| H0 | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

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