

# Joshua 17:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the mountain shall be thine; for it is a wood, and thou shalt cut it down: and the outgoings of it shall be thine: for thou shalt drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots, and though they be strong.

## Analysis

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**The mountain shall be thine; for it is a wood, and thou shalt cut it down—** Joshua's solution: work hard and trust God. The verb bara (כָּרַע, 'to cut down/clear') means intensive labor. The forested hill country required clearing before settlement, but it would be theirs. **Thou shalt drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots** affirms divine enablement supersedes military technology.

This verse balances human responsibility ('cut it down') with divine promise ('thou shalt drive out'). Faith without works is dead (James 2:17)—they must labor, but God guarantees victory. The 'though' clause eliminates their excuse: iron chariots don't nullify God's covenant.

## Historical Context

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Hill country forestland was less desirable initially but offered security and resources. Clearing forests for agriculture was grueling work in Bronze Age Palestine, requiring iron tools ironically obtained from defeated Canaanites. This prepared Israel for eventual dominance.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What hard work is God calling you to while promising ultimate success beyond your ability?
2. How does this verse challenge both passivity (waiting for God to act) and self-reliance (trusting your own strength)?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	הָרֶ	יְהִיָּה	לָךְ	כִּי	אֵי עֵר	הָוֵא
H3588	<b>But the mountain</b>	H1961	H0	H3588	<b>shall be thine for it is a wood</b>	H1931
	H2022				H3293	
	וְכָרָאתָּ	וְהָרָה	לָךְ	תִּצְאֹתָ יוֹ	כִּי	
	<b>and thou shalt cut it down</b>	H1961	H0	<b>and the outgoings</b>	H3588	
	H1254			H8444		
	תֹּחַ יֵשׁ		אֶת	הַכְּנַעֲנִי	כִּי	רֶכֶב
	<b>of it shall be thine for thou shalt drive out</b>		H853	<b>the Canaanites</b>	H3588	<b>chariots</b>
	H3423			H3669		H7393
	בְּרִזָּל	כִּי	לֹא	חֲזָקִים	הֵוֵא:	
	<b>though they have iron</b>	H0	H3588	<b>and though they be strong</b>	H1931	
	H1270			H2389		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 13:6** (Parallel theme): So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

**Romans 8:37** (Parallel theme): Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

**Romans 8:31** (Parallel theme): What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

**Joshua 15:9** (Parallel theme): And the border was drawn from the top of the hill unto the fountain of the water of Nephtoah, and went out to the cities of mount Ephron; and the border was drawn to Baalah, which is Kirjath-jearim:

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