

# Joshua 8:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when Israel had made an end of slaying all the inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness wherein they chased them, and when they were all fallen on the edge of the sword, until they were consumed, that all the Israelites returned unto Ai, and smote it with the edge of the sword.

## Analysis

**When Israel had made an end of slaying all the inhabitants of Ai**—The phrase 'made an end' (kalah, נָכַל) means 'brought to completion/finished entirely,' indicating thorough execution of cherem (devoted destruction). Israel pursued fleeing enemies into **the wilderness**, ensuring none escaped to rally resistance or spread idolatry.

**Until they were consumed**—This verb echoes God's promise to 'consume' Canaan's inhabitants (Exodus 23:23; Deuteronomy 7:2). Modern readers recoil at such violence, yet these judgments picture God's holy wrath against sin—a wrath ultimately poured on Christ at Calvary. Ai's destruction warned surrounding nations while purging the land for God's dwelling. The sword prefigures final judgment when unrepentant sinners face divine justice (Revelation 19:15, 21).

## Historical Context

The battle of Ai (circa 1406 BC) was Israel's second major conquest after Jericho. The complete destruction followed Deuteronomic warfare laws (Deuteronomy 20:16-18) requiring cherem against Canaanite cities to prevent religious

syncretism. Archaeological debates about Ai's location continue, though the biblical account's military detail suggests eyewitness testimony.

## Related Passages

---

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

---

1. How does Canaan's judgment help us understand God's holy hatred of sin and the seriousness of rebellion?
2. In what ways does Christ's bearing divine wrath at the cross satisfy God's justice while offering mercy to repentant sinners?

## Interlinear Text

---

כָּל	אַתָּה	לְהַרְגֵּן	כָּל	אַתָּה	לְהַרְגֵּן
H1961	had made an end	And it came to pass when Israel	of slaying	H853	H3605
H3615		H3478	H2026		
אֲשֶׁר	בְּמִדְבָּר	בְּשָׂדֶה	בְּשָׂדֶה	אֲשֶׁר	בְּמִדְבָּר
all the inhabitants	of Ai	in the field	in the wilderness	H834	
H3427	H5857	H7704	H4057		
כָּל	מִן	תִּפְלַל	בְּ	רְדָפָה	בְּ
wherein they chased	H0	them and when they were all fallen	H3605		
H7291		H5307			
כָּל	בָּבוֹן	תִּמְמָה	תִּמְמָה	כָּל	בָּבוֹן
it with the edge	of the sword	until they were consumed	returned	H3605	
H6310	H2719	H5704	H8552	H7725	
לְפִי	עַד	עַד	לְפִי	לְפִי	
And it came to pass when Israel	of Ai	and smote	H853	it with the edge	
H3478	H5857	H5221	H6310		
מִדְבָּר:					
of the sword	H2719				

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)