

Joshua 8:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then ye shall rise up from the ambush, and seize upon the city: for the LORD your God will deliver it into your hand.

Analysis

The instruction to the ambush force: 'Then ye shall rise up from the ambush, and seize upon the city: for the LORD your God will deliver it into your hand.' The imperative 'rise up' signals decisive action after patient waiting. The Hebrew **לֹקֶט** (lakad—to capture, seize) indicates taking possession. The timing is critical—they must strike when Ai's defenders have left to pursue Joshua's force. The assurance 'the LORD your God will deliver it' provides theological foundation for the military action. Victory is guaranteed not by superior tactics (though these matter) but by divine promise. This combination—human strategy plus divine assurance—characterizes biblical faith. Neither presumption (attacking without God's blessing, as at first Ai attempt) nor passivity (expecting God to act without human participation), but covenant partnership. The phrase 'your God' personalizes the relationship—not a distant deity but covenant Lord personally invested in Israel's success.

Historical Context

The instruction to 'seize upon the city' meant capturing Ai while it was undefended. Ancient cities' strength lay in walls and defenders; empty, they were vulnerable. The ambush force had to move quickly once Ai's army left, before defenders could return. This required precision timing—strike too early, and defenders would respond; too late, and they'd return before the city was secured. The plan's success depended on multiple contingencies aligning: Joshua's force convincingly fleeing, Ai's army pursuing, ambush force capturing the empty city,

and coordinated counter-attack. Such complex operations required trust in leadership, discipline among troops, and ultimately, divine providence orchestrating details. The theological statement 'the LORD your God will deliver it' wasn't empty encouragement but foundational promise enabling courageous action. Knowing God guaranteed victory allowed taking tactical risks that would be foolish without divine assurance.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise of victory enable courageous action that would otherwise be foolish?
2. What is the relationship between careful planning and trusting divine providence?
3. How do you maintain 'precision timing' in spiritual warfare—neither hasty nor delayed?

Interlinear Text

בָּעֵד יְרָא אֶת וְהַרְשַׁת מִתְּמַנְּאָה מִבְּאָוֹב בְּמִתְּמַנְּאָה מִתְּמַנְּאָה וְהַרְשַׁת מִתְּמַנְּאָה אֶת יְרָא בָּעֵד
H859 Then ye shall rise up from the ambush and seize H853 upon the city
H6965 H693 H3423 H5892

וְנִתְּנָהָה בְּיָדְכֶם אֱלֹהִיכֶם מִתְּמַנְּאָה יְהִי הָרָשָׁת
will deliver for the LORD your God it into your hand
H5414 H3068 H430 H3027

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 8:1 (Resurrection): And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:

2 Kings 5:1 (References Lord): Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper.

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