

Joshua 9:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when all the kings which were on this side Jordan, in the hills, and in the valleys, and in all the coasts of the great sea over against Lebanon, the Hittite, and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard thereof;

Analysis

The coalition forming against Israel shows how God's people's victories provoke opposition. 'All the kings...on this side Jordan' represents unified Canaanite response to Israel's threat. The geographic catalog (hills, valleys, coasts, Lebanon) indicates comprehensive alliance across diverse terrain and peoples. The list 'Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites' represents the six primary people groups (sometimes seven including Girgashites). Their unity shows that shared threat can overcome cultural and political differences. Previously, Canaanite city-states competed with each other; now Israel's presence forces cooperation. This illustrates spiritual principle: the world unites against God's kingdom despite internal divisions (Psalm 2:1-2, Acts 4:26-27). The phrase 'when they heard' indicates Israel's reputation preceded them—their victories created fear driving coalition formation. Ironically, the very terror God sent before Israel (Joshua 2:9-11) provoked organized resistance.

Historical Context

Canaan in the late Bronze Age consisted of numerous city-states with shifting alliances and frequent conflicts. Egyptian hegemony had weakened, leaving a power vacuum. Israel's arrival—unified, numerous, divinely aided—represented an

existential threat to all Canaanite kingdoms. The geographic diversity mentioned (mountains, lowlands, coastal plain) shows that cities across different ecological and economic zones recognized common danger. The six nations listed represent broader ethnic and cultural groups within Canaan. Archaeological evidence confirms the presence of these peoples in the regions mentioned. The phrase 'gathered themselves together' uses the Hebrew יָחַד (yachad—together, united), emphasizing unprecedented unity among typically fractious city-states. This coalition-building fulfilled God's prophecy that He would drive out these nations (Exodus 23:23, 33:2). Their unified response, though formidable, would prove insufficient against Israel's God.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does opposition to God's work sometimes intensify after initial victories?
2. What does worldly unity against God's kingdom teach about spiritual warfare's nature?
3. How should believers respond when success provokes increased, organized resistance?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	כְּשֶׁמָּע	וַיְהִי	הַמֶּלֶךְ יָם	אֲשֶׁר		
H3605	H1961	H8085	H4428	H834		
And it came to pass when all the kings	heard					
וּבְכָל	וּבְשֵׁפֶלָה	בְּהָרִים	הַיַּרְדֵּי	בְּעֵבֶר		
H3605	H8219	H2022	H3383	H5676		
and in the valleys	and in the hills	Jordan	which were on this side			
הַחִתִּי	הַלְבָּנוֹן	מִן	אֶל	הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל	וּבְכָל	וּבְכָל
H2850	H3844	H4136	H413	H1419	H3220	H2348
the Hittite	Lebanon	over against		of the great	sea	and in all the coasts
וְהַיְבוּסִי	הַחִוִּי	הַפְּרִזִּי	הַכְּנַעֲנִי	וְהָאֱמֹרִי		
H2983	H2340	H6522	H3669	H567		
and the Jebusite	the Hivite	the Perizzite	the Canaanite	and the Amorite		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 34:6 (Parallel theme): And as for the western border, ye shall even have the great sea for a border: this shall be your west border.

Exodus 3:17 (Parallel theme): And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

Exodus 23:23 (Parallel theme): For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.

Joshua 3:10 (Parallel theme): And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites.

