

Joshua 9:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That they gathered themselves together, to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord.

Analysis

The kings gather 'to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord.' The phrase 'one accord' (peh echad, יְהִי עֶחָד—literally 'one mouth') indicates complete unity of purpose. These normally competitive city-states present a united front. Their identification of both Joshua (leader) and Israel (nation) as targets shows they recognized the threat's dual nature: human leadership and divine backing. This coalition represents human wisdom's best effort to resist God's purposes—unified strategy, combined forces, coordinated action. Yet it will prove futile. Psalm 2:1-4 captures this dynamic: 'Why do the nations rage...against the LORD...He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh.' Human opposition, however impressive, cannot thwart divine purposes. The unified front also created opportunity for Gibeonite deception (following verses)—not all cities chose military confrontation.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern coalition warfare was common when facing mutual threats. City-states would form temporary alliances, contributing troops while maintaining individual sovereignty. The phrase 'with one accord' suggests formal treaty or mutual defense pact—not mere ad hoc cooperation but organized alliance. Such coalitions could be formidable, pooling resources and coordinating strategy. However, they also faced challenges: divided command, competing interests, varying levels of commitment. The coalition's focus on Joshua personally shows ancient warfare's role of leadership—defeating or killing the enemy commander could break army morale. Their explicit target ('Joshua and Israel') indicates

intelligence about Israel's leadership structure. Despite unified opposition, subsequent chapters show many cities fell quickly, suggesting the coalition never fully materialized or coordinated effectively. God's promise to fight for Israel (Exodus 14:14) proved stronger than Canaanite unity.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does human unity apart from God ultimately prove insufficient?
2. What encouragement does God's sovereignty over human opposition provide in your challenges?
3. When has apparent strong opposition to God's work actually revealed its desperation?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּקְבְּצוּ That they gathered H6908	וַיִּתְּצוּ themselves together H3162	לְהִלָּחֵם to fight H3898	עִם H5973	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ with Joshua H3091	וְעַם H5973
לְיִשְׂרָאֵל and with Israel H3478	פָּה accord H6310	אֶחָד: with one H259			
