

Judges 20:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now there was an appointed sign between the men of Israel and the liers in wait, that they should make a great flame with smoke rise up out of the city.

Analysis

Verse 38 details the aftermath of Benjamin's defeat. Now there was an appointed sign between the men of Israel and the liers in wait, that they should make a great flame with... The systematic destruction of Benjamin's territory represents the tragic outcome when civil war erupts among God's people—victory comes at devastating cost to the covenant community.

Historical Context

This verse describes the thorough nature of Benjamin's military defeat and the subsequent destruction of their tribal territory following the ambush strategy blessed by God after Israel's proper consultation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do victories that come after proper seeking of God still carry tragic costs?
2. What does this reveal about the consequences of civil conflict among God's people?
3. How can righteous judgments escalate beyond their proper scope?

Interlinear Text

וְמִזְמָרָה	בֵּין הָעָם	לֹא יָשַׁבְאָל	עַמּוֹד	וְיָשַׁבְאָל
Now there was an appointed sign	H1961	between the men	of Israel	and
H4150		H376	H3478	H5973
בָּאָגָר בְּ	רָבָב	מִשְׁאָת	לְפָעָלָת	מִשְׁאָת
the liars in wait	that they should make a great	rise up	flame	
H693	H7235	H5927	H4864	
מִן כְּעֵשׂ	כְּעֵיר:			
with smoke	H4480	out of the city		
H6227		H5892		

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