

Judges 20:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the men of Israel retired in the battle, Benjamin began to smite and kill of the men of Israel about thirty persons: for they said, Surely they are smitten down before us, as in the first battle.

Analysis

Verse 39 details the aftermath of Benjamin's defeat. And when the men of Israel retired in the battle, Benjamin began to smite and kill of the men of Israel about thirty per... 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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

וְהָפָךְ	אֶיֶשׁ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בַּמִּלְחָמָה	וּבְנֵימָן	הֵחֵל
retired	And when the men	of Israel	battle	Benjamin	began
H2015	H376	H3478	H4421	H1144	H2490
וְלָהֹךְ	וְלָהֹךְ	אֶיֶשׁ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	כְּשָׁלֹשׁ	יָמִים
to smite	and kill	And when the men	of Israel	about thirty	
H5221	H2491	H376	H3478	H7970	
אֶיֶשׁ	כִּי	אָמְרוּ	אֵלָּהּ	נָגַף	נָגַף
And when the men	H3588	for they said	H389	Surely	Surely
H376		H559		H5062	H5062
				הוּא	לִפְנֵי יָמָיו
				H1931	before
					H6440
בַּמִּלְחָמָה	הָרִאשׁוֹנָה:				
battle	us as in the first				
H4421	H7223				

Additional Cross-References

Judges 20:32 (References Israel): And the children of Benjamin said, They are smitten down before us, as at the first. But the children of Israel said, Let us flee, and draw them from the city unto the highways.