

# Judges 20:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore they turned their backs before the men of Israel unto the way of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them; and them which came out of the cities they destroyed in the midst of them.

## Analysis

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Verse 42 details the aftermath of Benjamin's defeat. Therefore they turned their backs before the men of Israel unto the way of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them;... 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

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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

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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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

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וְרֹא	אֶל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	עַל	לִפְנֵי	וְיִמְכַּר
Therefore	they turned	their backs before	the men	of Israel	unto the way
H6437	H6440	H376	H3478	H413	H1870
מִדְבָּר	הַמִּלְחָמָה	תַּהֲווּ	הַדּוֹבֵק	רַאשֵׁךְ	אֲשֶׁר
of the wilderness	but the battle	overtook			
H4057	H4421	H1692			H834
מִן־עַרְיוֹן	מִן־שָׁכְנַת־יִם	וְאַתֶּן	בְּתוּךְ	וְאַתֶּן	בְּתוּךְ
them and them which came out of the cities	they destroyed	H7843	H853	in the midst	H8432
H5892					

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