

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

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

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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

וַיִּפְּנוּ ו	לִפְנֵי י	אֲנֹשִׁים	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶל	דֶּרֶךְ
Therefore they turned	their backs before	the men	of Israel	H413	unto the way
H6437	H6440	H376	H3478		H1870
הַמִּדְבָּר	וְהַמִּלְחָמָה	הַדְּבִיקָה תָּהוּ	וְאֲשֶׁר		
of the wilderness	but the battle	overtook	H834		
H4057	H4421	H1692			
מֵהָעִיר יָצְאוּ	וְהָיוּ	מִשְׁחִיתֵיהֶם	אֹתָם	בְּתוֹכָם	
them and them which came out of the cities	they destroyed	H853		in the midst	
H5892	H7843			H8432	

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