

Judges 6:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel.

Analysis

Following Gideon's reformation, Midian, Amalek, and 'children of the east' unite for another raid. The phrase 'gathered together' (ne'esfu, נָסְפוּ) suggests organized military coalition rather than opportunistic raid. Their crossing Jordan and camping in Jezreel Valley indicates major invasion threatening Israel's most fertile agricultural region. The timing 'then'—immediately after Baal's altar destruction—raises questions: divine testing of newly reformed Gideon? Natural timing? Enemy response to perceived weakness during religious upheaval? The narrative treats this as the crisis for which God has been preparing Gideon.

Historical Context

The Jezreel Valley was Israel's breadbasket—a fifteen-mile-long, fertile plain between Galilee's hills and Samaria's mountains. Control of this valley meant control of crucial east-west trade routes and prime agricultural land. The coalition of Midianites (primary raiders), Amalekites (Israel's ancient enemy from Exodus 17), and eastern peoples (generic term for trans-Jordanian nomadic tribes) shows the invasion's scale. This alliance threatened Israel's survival.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does opposition intensifying after spiritual victory demonstrate spiritual warfare's reality?
2. Why does God often allow crises immediately after calling servants to test and develop faith?
3. What does the enemy coalition's timing teach about Satan's strategy to discourage newly committed believers?

Interlinear Text

וְכֹל	מִדְיָן	וְעַמּוֹל	קָרְבָּנִי	וְבָנִי	קָרְבָּן
H3605	Then all the Midianites	H4080	and the Amalekites	H6002	and the children
				H1121	of the east
				H6924	
וְאִסְגָּבָה	בְּעֵד	וְעַבְרָה	וְתִּמְכָּה	וְיַבְנֵל	יְצְרָאֵל:
were gathered	together	and went over	and pitched	in the valley	of Jezreel
H622	H3162	H5674	H2583	H6010	H3157

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 17:16 (Parallel theme): And the children of Joseph said, The hill is not enough for us: and all the Canaanites that dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, both they who are of Beth-shean and her towns, and they who are of the valley of Jezreel.

Judges 6:3 (Parallel theme): And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them;