

Judges 7:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Beth-shittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abel-meholah, unto Tabbath.

Analysis

While the 300 continued blowing trumpets, 'the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host.' God induced the Midianites to attack each other in the darkness and confusion—friendly fire on massive scale. The fleeing remnant headed east toward their homelands: 'unto Beth-shittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abel-meholah, unto Tabbath.' These place names trace the retreat route from the Jezreel Valley back across the Jordan. The phrase 'the LORD set' emphasizes divine agency—this wasn't merely natural panic but supernatural confusion.

Historical Context

The flight route moved from the Jezreel Valley (Israel's heartland) eastward toward the Jordan River crossings. Beth-shittah and Zererath were likely in the Jordan Valley, Abel-meholah (Elisha's hometown, 1 Kings 19:16) was east of the Jordan, and Tabbath was in Gilead. The retreating force was heading back to Midianite and Amalekite territories east and south of the Dead Sea. The distance covered (30-40 miles) in panicked flight indicates the rout's thoroughness.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God causing the enemy to fight each other demonstrate His sovereignty over the spiritual forces arrayed against believers?
2. What does this victory with minimal Israelite casualties teach about God's ability to protect His people while defeating their enemies?
3. How should remembering God's past victories encourage confidence when facing present spiritual battles?

Interlinear Text

אֵב ל שְׁפִת עַד בֵּית הַשְׁפָט הַצָּרֶר תָּה עַד שְׁפִת אֵב ל H5704 H0 to Bethshittah H1029 in Zererath H6888 and to the border H5704 H0 H8193

טָבַתְּנִים עַל מְחוֹלָה of Abelmeholah H5921 unto Tabbath H2888

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 4:12 (Parallel theme): Baana the son of Ahilud; to him pertained Taanach and Megiddo, and all Beth-shean, which is by Zartanah beneath Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah, even unto the place that is beyond Jokneam:

Joshua 6:20 (Parallel theme): So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

1 Kings 19:16 (Parallel theme): And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

2 Chronicles 20:23 (Parallel theme): For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

Isaiah 19:2 (Parallel theme): And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.

Isaiah 9:4 (Parallel theme): For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

Psalms 83:9 (Parallel theme): Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison:

Joshua 6:4 (Parallel theme): And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

Joshua 6:16 (References Lord): And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.