

Judges 7:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they took two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb; and they slew Oreb upon the rock Oreb, and Zeeb they slew at the winepress of Zeeb, and pursued Midian, and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan.

Analysis

The chapter concludes with Ephraimite complaint: they 'pursued after the Midianites' and captured the princes Oreb and Zeeb, then 'brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side Jordan.' This detail sets up chapter 8's conflict where Ephraim angrily questions why they weren't summoned initially (8:1). Their pride in capturing the princes and subsequent offense at their secondary role demonstrates the tribal jealousies and lack of unity characterizing the judges period. Despite God's miraculous victory, human pride and division immediately resurface.

Historical Context

Ephraim, descended from Joseph's younger son who received the birthright blessing (Genesis 48:14-20), held significant tribal pride and expected leadership among the northern tribes. Their central territorial location in the hill country, possession of Shiloh (the tabernacle site), and the tradition of Joshua being an Ephraimite (Joshua 19:49-50) all contributed to Ephraimite superiority expectations. Later, when the kingdom divided, the northern kingdom was sometimes called 'Ephraim' (Hosea, Isaiah).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Ephraim's pride after contributing to Gideon's victory illustrate the danger of seeking credit for God's work?
2. What does the immediate emergence of tribal jealousy despite miraculous deliverance teach about the persistence of sin even after great blessings?
3. When have you experienced or witnessed similar conflicts arising from pride and jealousy even in contexts of spiritual victory?

Interlinear Text

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| וְזֹא בְּאֵת שְׁנִי שְׁרִי שְׁנִי מִדְיָן אֶת בְּעֵרֶת לְכָדֵן | And they took two princes Midian H853 and Zeeb | two H3920 | princes H8147 | Midian H8269 | H4080 | Oreb H6159 | H853 | and Zeeb H2062 |
|--|--|-----------|---------------|--------------|-------|------------|------|----------------|

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| וְזָא בָּאַת | עֵרֶב בְּצֹור | עֵרֶב בְּצֹור | וְאַת | וְזָא בָּאַת |
| and they slew | H853 | Oreb | upon the rock | Oreb |

| לזרן | מע בָּר | גָּדָע וְ | הַבְּ יָאֹ | וְזָא בָּ | עָרָב |
|-------|----------|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Oreb | and Zeeb | and brought | H413 | to Gideon | on the other side |
| H6159 | H2062 | H935 | | H1439 | H5676 |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 10:26 (Parallel theme): And the LORD of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb: and as his rod was upon the sea, so shall he lift it up after the manner of Egypt.

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