

# 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

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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

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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

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**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

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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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וַיֹּא ב	וְאֶת	עַרְב	אֶת	מִדְיָן	שְׁנֵי	וַיִּלְכְּדוּ
and Zeeb	H853	Oreb	H853	Midian	two	And they took
H2062		H6159		H4080	H8147	H3920
וַיֹּא ב	וְאֶת	עַרְב	בְּצֹר		אֶת	הָרָגוּ
and Zeeb	H853	Oreb	upon the rock		H853	and they slew
H2062		H6159	H6697			H2026
וְרָאשׁ	מִדְיָן	אֶל	וַיִּדְפּוּ	וַיֹּא ב	בִּיקָב	הָרָגוּ
the heads	Midian	H413	and pursued	and Zeeb	at the winepress	and they slew
H7218	H4080		H7291	H2062	H3342	H2026
לְיַרְדֵּן׃	מֵעַבֵּר	גִּדְעוֹן	אֶל	וַיֹּא ב	וַיֹּא ב	עַרְב
Jordan	on the other side	to Gideon	H413	and Zeeb	and brought	Oreb
H3383	H5676	H1439		H2062	H935	H6159

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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