

Numbers 21:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities: and he called the name of the place Hormah.

Analysis

The LORD 'delivered up the Canaanites' in response to Israel's vow. Divine intervention secured victory they couldn't achieve alone. The place was named 'Hormah' (destruction/devotion), memorializing God's faithfulness. Naming places after God's acts creates permanent testimony to His intervention. Our lives should be marked by memorial experiences of divine faithfulness.

Historical Context

Ironically, an earlier generation had attacked this region presumptuously and been defeated at Hormah (14:45). The same location witnessed both judgment for presumption and victory through faith. Geography carried theological meaning: places of past defeat could become, through faith, locations of triumph.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What places or experiences in your life mark transitions from defeat to victory through faith?
2. How do you memorialize God's faithfulness so future generations know what He has done?

Interlinear Text

וַשְׁמָעַ	יְהוָה	בְּקוֹל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וַיִּתֵּן	אֶת־
hearkened	And the LORD	to the voice	of Israel	and delivered up	H853
H8085	H3068	H6963	H3478	H5414	
הַכְּנַעֲנִי	וַיַּחֲרֹם	אֶתְּהֶם	וְאֶת־	עָרֵיהֶם	
the Canaanites	and they utterly destroyed	H853	H853	them and their cities	
H3669	H2763			H5892	
וַיִּקְרָא	שֵׁם	הַמָּקוֹם	חֹרְמָה:		
and he called	the name	of the place	Hormah		
H7121	H8034	H4725	H2767		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 14:45 (Parallel theme): Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah.

Deuteronomy 1:44 (Parallel theme): And the Amorites, which dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chased you, as bees do, and destroyed you in Seir, even unto Hormah.