

Numbers 31:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said unto Moses, Thy servants have taken the sum of the men of war which are under our charge, and there lacketh not one man of us.

Analysis

The officers report: 'Thy servants have taken the sum of the men of war... and there lacketh not one man of us.' This miraculous preservation in warfare demonstrated God's protective power. The Hebrew 'ish echad' (one man) emphasizes complete preservation - not even one casualty. This military miracle led to grateful offerings (v.50), showing they recognized divine intervention. The incident typifies Christ's protection of His own - He loses none the Father gave Him (John 6:39, 17:12, 18:9). Though believers face spiritual warfare, ultimate victory and preservation are certain in Christ. God's power keeps us from falling (Jude 24).

Historical Context

This battle executed divine judgment on Midian for the Baal-Peor seduction (ch 25). Twelve thousand Israelite soldiers (1,000 per tribe, v.4-5) defeated Midian completely, killing all males including five kings and Balaam (v.7-8). The complete preservation with no casualties was unprecedented - even in victories, war normally produces casualties. The miracle demonstrated God's favor and judgment execution through Israel. The officers' offering of gold ornaments as atonement (v.50) showed humble recognition that even righteous war required spiritual cleansing. The incident encouraged future generations that obedience to divine commands brings supernatural protection.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Do you trust Christ's promise to preserve all the Father gave Him, or fear you might be lost?
2. How does this miraculous preservation encourage your confidence in spiritual warfare that Christ ensures ultimate victory?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמְרוּ	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	עֲבָדֶיךָ	וְנָשָׂא וְ	אֶת	ר' אֵשׁ
And they said	H413	unto Moses	Thy servants	have taken	H853	the sum
H559		H4872	H5650	H5375		H7218
אִישׁ:	הַמִּלְחָמָה	ר' אֵשׁ	בְּיָדֵינוּ	וְלֹא		
not one man	of war	H834	which are under our charge	H3808		
H376	H4421		H3027			
וְנִפְקַד	וְנִפְקַד	אִישׁ:				
and there lacketh	H4480	not one man				
H6485		H376				

Additional Cross-References

John 18:9 (Parallel theme): That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.

Psalms 72:14 (Parallel theme): He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight.

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