

Psalms 83:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin,
at the brook of Kison:

Analysis

Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison. The psalmist appeals to historical precedent, asking God to repeat past deliverances. Aseh lahem k-Midyan (עֲשֵׂה לָהֶם כְּמִדְיָן, "do to them as to Midian") invokes Gideon's miraculous victory when 300 men with trumpets and torches routed vast Midianite armies (Judges 7). God caused the enemy to turn on each other in confusion—Israel didn't fight but watched God's deliverance.

K-Sisera k-Yavin b-nachal Qishon (כְּסִיסֵרָא כְּיָבִין בְּנַחַל קִישׁוֹן, "as Sisera, as Jabin, at the brook Kishon") references Deborah and Barak's victory over Canaanite forces (Judges 4-5). God sent torrential rain causing the Kishon brook to flood; Sisera's iron chariots—his technological advantage—became liability, bogging down in mud. The Canaanite general fled on foot and was killed by Jael. Again, victory came through divine intervention, not military superiority.

These precedents share common features:

1. Israel faced overwhelming odds
2. conventional military strategy would fail
3. God intervened miraculously
4. enemies were destroyed by confusion or natural phenomena.

The prayer asks: "God, You've done this before; do it again!" This is legitimate biblical prayer—appealing to God's past faithfulness as basis for present

confidence. Remembering God's mighty acts strengthens faith to believe He'll act again.

Historical Context

The Midianite oppression (Judges 6-8) saw nomadic raiders devastating Israel's harvests annually, reducing the nation to poverty and hiding in caves. Gideon's 300-man victory demonstrated that "the battle is the LORD's" (1 Samuel 17:47). The Kishon battle (Judges 4-5) occurred in the Jezreel Valley where Deborah led Israel against Canaanite king Jabin. Sisera commanded 900 iron chariots—cutting-edge military technology. Yet God's intervention through weather neutralized this advantage. These historical examples taught Israel that God delights in demonstrating His power through weak instruments facing impossible odds, ensuring He alone receives glory (1 Corinthians 1:27-29).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does remembering God's past faithfulness in your life strengthen faith to trust Him in present difficulties?
2. What spiritual principle is demonstrated when God gives victory through weak instruments facing overwhelming odds?
3. Why might God prefer to deliver through miracle rather than conventional means, and how does this affect His glory?

Interlinear Text

עֲשֵׂה	לָהֶם	כַּמִּדְיָן	כְּסִיסֶרָא	כְּיָבִין
Do	H1992	unto them as unto the Midianites	as to Sisera	as to Jabin
H6213		H4080	H5516	H2985
בְּנַחַל	קִישׁוֹן:			
at the brook	of Kison			
H5158	H7028			

Additional Cross-References

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.

Judges 5:21 (Parallel theme): The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon. O my soul, thou hast trodden down strength.