

Joshua 10:24 (James M. Freeman) 97756

Manners and Customs of the Bible, 220. Enemies Trodden On (10:24)

Joshua 10:24. Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them.

This is an ancient Oriental mode of treating captured kings, not as an act of cruelty, but as a symbolical representation of complete subjugation. Compare notes on Genesis 49:8 (#96) and 1 Corinthians 15:26 (#869).

Roberts says of the East Indians: "When people are disputing, should one be a little pressed, and the other begins to triumph, the former will say, 'I will tread upon thy neck, and after that beat thee.' A low-caste man insulting one who is high, is sure to hear someone say to the offended individual, 'Put your feet on his neck'" (Oriental Illustrations, p. 135).

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