

1 Samuel 12:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they forgat the LORD their God, he sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the host of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them.

Analysis

And when they forgat the LORD their God, he sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the host of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them.

Samuel identifies a recurring pattern: when Israel 'forgot the LORD their God,' He 'sold them' (makar) into enemy hands. The language of being 'sold' recalls the slave market, emphasizing that Israel's subjugation resulted from covenant abandonment. The specific enemies named - Sisera, the Philistines, and Moab - represent threats from north, west, and east, surrounding Israel with consequences of their unfaithfulness. Divine discipline aimed at restoration, not destruction.

Historical Context

Sisera commanded Jabin's Canaanite army and was defeated by Deborah and Barak (Judges 4-5). The Philistines dominated Israel during much of the judges period. Moab oppressed Israel under Eglon until Ehud's deliverance (Judges 3:12-30). These enemies represented distinct cultural and military threats.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does forgetting God's past faithfulness lead to present vulnerability?
2. In what ways does God use difficult circumstances to draw His people back to Himself?

Interlinear Text

וַשְׁכַּח וְ	אֶת	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵיהֶם	וַמָּכַר	אֶת
And when they forgot	H853	the LORD	their God	he sold	H853
H7911		H3068	H430	H4376	
וּבְיַד	סִיסֶרָא	שָׂר	צָבָא	חֲצֹר	וּבְיַד
and into the hand	of Sisera	captain	of the host	of Hazor	and into the hand
H3027	H5516	H8269	H6635	H2674	H3027
פְּלִשְׁתֵּי יָם	וּבְיַד	מֶלֶךְ	מוֹאָב	וַלָּחֶמ וְ	בָּם:
of the Philistines	and into the hand	of the king	of Moab	and they fought	H0
H6430	H3027	H4428	H4124	H3898	

Additional Cross-References

Judges 4:2 (Kingdom): And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles.

Judges 10:7 (References Lord): And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon.

Judges 3:12 (Kingdom): And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.

Judges 13:1 (References Lord): And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

Deuteronomy 32:18 (References God): Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.

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