

1 Samuel 27:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt.

Analysis

David's raids against the Geshurites, Gezrites, and Amalekites reveal his complex moral position during this period. These peoples were ancient enemies of Israel, populations that should have been dispossessed during the conquest. The phrase 'of old the inhabitants of the land' (Hebrew: 'me'olam yoshevei ha'aretz') connects David's actions to Israel's unfulfilled mandate. David thus continued Israel's ancient warfare while appearing to serve Philistine interests, maintaining his identity as an Israelite warrior despite his compromised position.

Historical Context

The Geshurites were likely a tribal group in the southern Negev, distinct from the Geshurites near the Sea of Galilee. The Amalekites were Israel's perpetual enemies, first attacking Israel at Rephidim after the Exodus. David's raids continued the mandate God gave to Saul (1 Samuel 15).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain your core commitments when circumstances seem to compromise your identity?
2. What actions in ambiguous situations can align with your fundamental calling?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַל	וַיְהִי	וְאֶנְשֵׁי יוֹ	וַיִּפְשֹׁט וַ	אֶל	הַגִּשּׁוּרִי
went up	And David	and his men	and invaded	H413	the Geshurites
H5927	H1732	H582	H6584		H1651
וְהַגִּזְרִי	וְהַעֲמֻלִּי	כִּי	לָהֶם	יָשָׁב	וְהָיָה
and the Gezrites	and the Amalekites	H3588	for those	the inhabitants	
H1511	H6003		H2007	H3427	
אֶרֶץ	אֲשֶׁר	מֵעוֹלָם	בְּוָאֵךְ	שׁ וְכָה	יָעַד
even unto the land	H834	nations were of old	as thou goest	to Shur	H5704
H776		H5769	H935	H7793	
אֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם:				
even unto the land	of Egypt				
H776	H4714				

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 13:2 (Parallel theme): This is the land that yet remaineth: all the borders of the Philistines, and all Geshuri,

Joshua 13:13 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless the children of Israel expelled not the Geshurites, nor the Maachathites: but the Geshurites and the Maachathites dwell among the Israelites until this day.

Joshua 16:10 (Parallel theme): And they drave not out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer: but the Canaanites dwell among the Ephraimites unto this day, and serve under tribute.

Judges 1:29 (Parallel theme): Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.

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