

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

Psalm 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

וַיֵּלֶךְ דָּוִיד וְאֶנְשָׁה כָּל הַגְּשֻׁרִים
went up And David and his men and invaded the Geshurites
H5927 H1732 H582 H6584 H413 H1651

וְאֶנְשָׁה כָּל הַגְּשֻׁרִים וְאֶנְשָׁה כָּל הַעֲמָלֵקִים וְאֶנְשָׁה כָּל הַגְּרָזִים
and the Gezrites and the Amalekites for those the inhabitants
H1511 H6003 H3588 H2007 H3427

וְאֶנְשָׁה כָּל הַגְּשֻׁרִים וְאֶנְשָׁה כָּל הַעֲמָלֵקִים וְאֶנְשָׁה כָּל הַגְּרָזִים
even unto the land nations were of old as thou goest to Shur
H776 H834 H5769 H935 H7793 H5704

וְאֶנְשָׁה כָּל הַגְּשֻׁרִים וְאֶנְשָׁה כָּל הַעֲמָלֵקִים
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 drove 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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