

1 Samuel 31:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the men of Israel that were on the other side of the valley, and they that were on the other side Jordan, saw that the men of Israel fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities, and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

Analysis

The aftermath extends beyond the battle as Israelites in surrounding territories flee, abandoning their cities to Philistine occupation. The Hebrew 'wayyya'azvu' (forsook) and 'wayyanusu' (fled) describe panic abandonment. The Philistines 'came and dwelt in them,' establishing long-term occupation. The battle's impact spreads far beyond Gilboa, affecting civilians who had not fought. Leadership failure produces consequences reaching those who simply lived under that leadership.

Historical Context

The territorial losses included strategic positions in the Jezreel Valley and transjordan. This Philistine expansion would challenge David throughout his early reign and require military campaigns to reverse.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do leaders' failures affect those they were meant to protect?
2. What does civilian flight reveal about the relationship between military and domestic security?

Interlinear Text

בַּעַד בָּר אֲשֶׁר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲנָשִׁי יִרְאָא וְ
and they that were on the other side
saw of Israel and they that were on the other side
H376 H3478 H834 H5676
H7200 H3478 H5676

בַּעַד בָּר גִּיא בָּרֶד |
and they that were on the other side Jordan
of the valley and they that were on the other side Jordan
H834 H5676 H3588
H6010 H5676 H3383

וְבָבָד יְהִי שָׁאֵל מֵתָו מֵתָו
and that Saul and his sons
and fled of Israel were dead and that Saul and his sons
H376 H3478 H3588 H4191 H7586 H1121
H5127 H3478 H5676 H4191 H7586 H1121

וְשָׁב וְפָלַשְׁת יִמְּלַחֵב וְ
and dwelt and the Philistines and dwelt
they forsook the cities and fled came and the Philistines and dwelt
H853 H5892 H5127 H935 H6430 H3427
H5800 H5892 H5127 H935 H6430 H3427

בָּבָד:

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