

1 Samuel 7:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

Analysis

And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

Territorial restoration accompanied military victory. The cities 'from Ekron even unto Gath' - Philistine heartland - returned to Israelite control, with surrounding territories ('coasts') similarly reclaimed. The Hebrew 'natsal' (deliver) emphasizes rescue from enemy grasp. This reversal of decades of loss demonstrated God's comprehensive restoration: not merely defensive survival but offensive recovery. The surprising note about 'peace between Israel and the Amorites' indicates normalized relations with other regional peoples - Philistine weakness removed pressure that had defined the entire judges period. Samuel's era inaugurated unprecedented stability. Yet this golden age depended on spiritual conditions: covenant faithfulness, prophetic leadership, and corporate repentance. When Israel later demanded a king 'like all the nations,' they traded this divinely-mediated peace for militaristic monarchy with mixed results.

Historical Context

Ekron and Gath were inner Philistine cities; their restoration to Israel represents significant territorial gain. 'Amorites' sometimes serves as a general term for pre-Israelite Canaanite peoples. Peace with surrounding nations fulfilled covenant promises contingent on obedience (Leviticus 26:6). Samuel's judgeship represents the period's high point.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's restoration often exceed mere survival to include recovery of what was lost?
2. What does the connection between spiritual renewal and external peace teach about addressing contemporary conflicts?

Interlinear Text

מִאֵת	פְּלִשְׁתִּים	לְקָחוּ	בָּנָה	עָשָׂרִים	בָּעָרָה	וְתַשְׁבִּית
were restored	And the cities	H834	had taken	of the Philistines		H853

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בֵּין אֶרְקֹן וְבֵין אֶשְׁרָא לְאֶשְׁרָא לְ

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and the coasts deliver between Israel out of the hands of the Philistines of the H1961
H1366 H5337 H3478 H3027 H6130

בְּאֹמְרִים: וְלֹא יָשַׁרְאָל יְהִי וְלֹא יָשַׁל וּמְ

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