

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

מֵאֵת פְּלִשְׁתִּים לָקְחוּ אֲשֶׁר הָעָרִים וְנָשׁוּ בָנָה
were restored **And the cities** **had taken** **of the Philistines**
H7725 H5892 H834 H3947 H6430 H853

וְאֶת גַּת וְעַד מְעֵקֶר וֶן יִשְׂרָאֵל לִישְׂרָאֵל
between Israel **between Israel** **from Ekron** **even unto Gath**
H3478 H3478 H6138 H5704 H1661

וְיָהּ יִפְּלֹשֶׁת יָם מִיַּד יִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַצִּיל גְּבוּל ו
and the coasts **deliver** **between Israel** **out of the hands** **of the Philistines**
H1366 H5337 H3478 H3027 H6430 H1961

וְהָאֱמֹרִי: וְיִשְׂרָאֵל לְבֵן יֶשׁוּעַ
And there was peace **between Israel** **and the Amorites**
H7965 H996 H3478 H996 H567

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