

Amos 1:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, and him that holdeth the sceptre from Ashkelon, and I will turn mine hand against Ekron: and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

And I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, and him that holdeth the sceptre from Ashkelon—The Hebrew *hikhrati yoshev* (הִכְרַתִּי יוֹשֵׁב, "I will cut off the inhabitant") and *tomekh shevet* (תוֹמֵךְ שֵׁבֶט, "him that holdeth the sceptre") together describe total political destruction—both general population and ruling authority will be eliminated. **And I will turn mine hand against Ekron**—*Hashivoti yadi* (הַשִּׁיבוּתִי יָדִי) means to turn or return God's hand in hostile action, striking repeatedly. **And the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, saith the Lord GOD**—*She'erit Pelishtim* (שְׁאֵרִית פְּלִשְׁתִּים, "remnant of Philistines") indicates complete annihilation, not just defeat.

This verse expands judgment from Gaza (v. 7) to three more Philistine cities: Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Ekron. Notably absent is Gath, likely already destroyed by this time (see 2 Kings 12:17; 2 Chronicles 26:6). The comprehensive nature of this oracle—naming four of five Philistine cities—emphasizes totality of judgment. God doesn't selectively punish but systematically dismantles the entire Philistine power structure that enabled the slave trade.

The phrase "the remnant of the Philistines shall perish" is prophetically significant. Throughout Scripture, God preserves a "remnant" of His covenant people despite judgment (Isaiah 10:20-22; Romans 9:27, 11:5). But for the Philistines, no remnant will survive—total extinction. This anticipates the historical reality: the Philistines

eventually disappeared as a distinct people, absorbed and destroyed by successive empires. The covenant formula "saith the Lord GOD" (amar Adonai YHWH) authenticates this as divine decree, not mere political prediction. God's Word guarantees its fulfillment.

Historical Context

Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Ekron were major Philistine city-states with distinct rulers, though they sometimes acted in concert. Ashdod was a major port and religious center (temple of Dagon, 1 Samuel 5:1-7). Ashkelon was another significant coastal city. Ekron was the northernmost Philistine city, closer to Israelite territory. Archaeological excavations confirm destruction layers at these sites corresponding to Assyrian campaigns (Tiglath-Pileser III, Sargon II, Sennacherib) that fulfilled these prophecies.

The Philistines never recovered from these 8th-7th century BC destructions. While some Philistine settlements persisted, their political and ethnic identity was erased—a people who dominated Israel during the judges period vanished from history, exactly as Amos prophesied.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the total judgment on Philistia—with no remnant preserved—contrast with God's preservation of a remnant from Israel despite their sins, and what does this reveal about covenant grace?
2. What does the fulfillment of Amos's detailed prophecies against specific ancient cities teach us about trusting God's prophetic word concerning future judgment and Christ's return?

Interlinear Text

וְהִכָּרְתִּי י	יֹשֵׁב	מֵאַשְׁדּוֹד	וְתוֹמִיָּה	שֵׁבֶט
And I will cut off	the inhabitant	from Ashdod	and him that holdeth	the sceptre
H3772	H3427	H795	H8551	H7626
מֵאַשְׁקֶלֶן	וְהִשִּׁיב וְתִי	יָדִי	עַל	עֶקְרֹן
from Ashkelon	and I will turn	mine hand	H5921	against Ekron
H831	H7725	H3027	H6138	H6
וְהָיָה	אֲדֹנָי	אֶמֶר	פְּלִשְׁתֵּי יָם	שְׂאֵרֵי יָם
and the remnant	of the Philistines	saith	the Lord	GOD
H7611	H6430	H559	H136	H3069

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 25:16 (References God): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will stretch out mine hand upon the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethims, and destroy the remnant of the sea coast.

Isaiah 20:1 (Parallel theme): In the year that Tartan came unto Ashdod, (when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him,) and fought against Ashdod, and took it;

Psalms 81:14 (Parallel theme): I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries.

Zechariah 9:6 (Parallel theme): And a bastard shall dwell in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines.

2 Chronicles 26:6 (Parallel theme): And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod, and built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines.

Isaiah 1:25 (Parallel theme): And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

Zechariah 13:7 (References Lord): Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

Amos 3:9 (Parallel theme): Publish in the palaces at Ashdod, and in the palaces in the land of Egypt, and say, Assemble yourselves upon the mountains of Samaria, and behold the great tumults in the midst thereof, and the oppressed in the midst thereof.

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