

Ezekiel 25:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

God would 'cut off the Cherethims' (likely Cretans, possibly Philistines' origin per Amos 9:7) and 'destroy the remnant of the sea coast.' The Philistines would cease to exist as a distinct people. Their name would survive ironically—'Palestine' derives from 'Philistia'—but no ethnic Philistines remain. This demonstrates that those who persistently oppose God's purposes face oblivion.

Historical Context

The Philistines, likely originating from the Aegean region (Crete/Cyprus), settled Palestine's coastal plain circa 1200 BC. After Babylonian conquest, they never recovered distinct identity, being absorbed by surrounding peoples under Persian and Hellenistic rule.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the disappearance of Israel's ancient enemies validate biblical authority?
2. What does the survival of God's people despite persistent opposition teach about His faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

לְכָךְ	אָמַר	הָנָן	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהִים	הָנָן	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהִים	הָנָן	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהִים
H3651	H3541	Therefore thus saith	the Lord	GOD				H2005		
		H559	H136	H3069						
נָטוּ	עַל	פָּלֶשֶׁת	יָם	וְהַכְּבִתִּ						
Behold I will stretch out	mine hand	upon the Philistines	and I will cut off							
H5186	H3027	H5921	H6430	H3772						
אֶת	שְׁאֵר יִתְּ	חַזְקָה								
the Cherethims	and destroy	the remnant	coast	of the sea						
H853	H6	H853	H7611	H2348	H3220					
H3774										

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 30:14 (Parallel theme): We made an invasion upon the south of the Cherethites, and upon the coast which belongeth to Judah, and upon the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire.

Ezekiel 25:13 (References God): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; and they of Dedan shall fall by the sword.

Ezekiel 25:7 (References Lord): Behold, therefore I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and will deliver thee for a spoil to the heathen; and I will cut thee off from the people, and I will cause thee to perish out of the countries: I will destroy thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.

2 Samuel 15:18 (Parallel theme): And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.

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