

Ezra 2:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five.

Analysis

The children of Jericho, three hundred forty and five—The city of Yericho (יֶרִיחוֹ), though cursed by Joshua (Joshua 6:26), was inhabited again by the time of David. Its mention here carries profound theological irony: the city representing Canaan's destruction now contributes to Judah's restoration. The 345 returnees demonstrate God's power to redeem even cursed places.

Jericho's inclusion fulfills the prophetic pattern of redemption—what was once devoted to destruction (herem, חֶרֶם) becomes a source of blessing. This reversal anticipates Christ's work, transforming those under the curse of the Law (Galatians 3:13) into children of promise. The relatively modest number (345 vs. 725 from Lod) may reflect Jericho's continued vulnerability in the Jordan valley.

Historical Context

Jericho, the 'city of palm trees,' was rebuilt during Ahab's reign (1 Kings 16:34), with the builder experiencing Joshua's curse. Located 17 miles northeast of Jerusalem at 850 feet below sea level, it was Israel's gateway city from the east. These returnees resettled a city with both traumatic (Joshua's conquest) and redemptive (Elisha's ministry, 2 Kings 2:19-22) associations.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Jericho's transformation from cursed city to contributor of restoration demonstrate God's redemptive power in your own past?
2. What 'cursed' areas of your life or community might God be calling you to reclaim for His purposes?
3. How does the inclusion of formerly cursed places in God's restoration plan give you hope for personal or cultural renewal?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי י	יְרִיחוֹ	שְׁלֹשָׁה	מֵאוֹת	אַרְבָּעִים	וְחָמֵשָׁה
The children	of Jericho	three	hundred	forty	and five
H1121	H3405	H7969	H3967	H705	H2568

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 16:34 (Parallel theme): In his days did Hiel the Beth-elite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun.