

Joshua 10:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, unto the camp to Gilgal.

Analysis

And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, unto the camp to Gilgal— Gilgal (גִּלְגָּל, "circle [of stones]") served as Israel's base camp throughout the conquest (Joshua 4:19, 5:10, 9:6). The return to Gilgal after victory wasn't retreat but strategic repositioning. Gilgal represented the place where Israel crossed Jordan, was circumcised, celebrated Passover, and first ate the produce of Canaan —a place thick with covenant memory.

The phrase "**all Israel with him**" emphasizes national unity under Joshua's leadership. Unlike the later period of the Judges when "every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25), here we see Israel functioning as am echad (אָמֵן אֶחָד, "one people") under God's appointed leader. This unity, combined with covenant obedience, resulted in victory. The pattern is clear: advance in obedience, conquer in faith, return to the place of covenant remembrance, then advance again.

Historical Context

Gilgal was located near Jericho in the Jordan Valley, about 2 miles from the Jordan River and 10 miles from Jerusalem. It served as Israel's military headquarters during the conquest period, strategically positioned to launch campaigns into both the central hill country and the southern regions. The site remained significant in Israel's history, later visited by Samuel (1 Samuel 7:16) and where Saul was made king (1 Samuel 11:15).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What is your 'Gilgal'—the place where you remember God's faithfulness and return for spiritual renewal?
2. How does returning to foundational covenant truths between ministry efforts strengthen our effectiveness?
3. What does the unity of 'all Israel with him' teach about the importance of corporate obedience and fellowship?

Interlinear Text

בְּמִצְבַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְיִשְׁרָאֵל עִמָּיו יְשֻׁבֵּן יְהוָשָׁעַ וְיַעֲשֵׂה
returned And Joshua and all Israel with him unto the camp
H7725 H3091 H3605 H3478 H5973 H413 H4264

בְּגִלְגָּל
to Gilgal
H1537

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 10:15 (References Israel): And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, unto the camp to Gilgal.