

Joshua 11:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There was none of the Anakims left in the land of the children of Israel: only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained.

Analysis

There was none of the Anakims left in the land of the children of Israel— The Anakim's removal from Israelite territory was complete. The phrase **land of the children of Israel** (ארץ בני ישראל, eretz benei Yisra'el) defines the scope: territories Israel controlled, not necessarily all Canaan. **Only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained**—these Philistine coastal cities preserved Anakim remnants.

This geographical precision proves tragically prophetic. Gath later produced Goliath and his giant brothers (1 Samuel 17:4; 2 Samuel 21:15-22), demonstrating that incomplete conquest creates future problems. The Anakim's survival in Philistine territory shows Israel didn't fully execute God's command to eliminate these peoples. The theological principle: partial obedience leaves strongholds that later trouble God's people. The phrase **there remained** (נישׁארו, nish'aru) uses the verb for remnant or survivor—what should have been completely destroyed persists as ongoing threat. New Testament application: besetting sins not thoroughly mortified (Colossians 3:5) remain to trouble believers, just as Anakim remnants later challenged Israel.

Historical Context

The Philistine pentapolis (Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, Ekron) controlled the southern coastal plain, a region Israel never fully conquered. These cities had

different political structures and possibly ethnic composition than Canaanite city-states—the Philistines were Sea Peoples who arrived around the same time as Israel's conquest. The Anakim's refuge in Philistine territory may reflect Philistine military strength or Israel's failure to press conquest into coastal regions. Archaeological evidence shows Philistine cities flourished during the early Iron Age when Israel was settling the highlands. The giant warriors from Gath who troubled David's reign (2 Samuel 21:15-22) were likely Anakim descendants. Goliath himself is called 'the Philistine of Gath' (1 Samuel 17:23)—his extraordinary height (over nine feet, 1 Samuel 17:4) suggests Anakim ancestry. The incomplete conquest created ongoing conflict between Israel and Philistines that persisted through the monarchy period. This historical reality illustrates the spiritual principle that incomplete obedience to God's commands regarding sin creates persistent struggles.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What 'giants' have you driven from most areas of your life but still harbor in certain 'cities' or specific contexts?
2. How do 'Anakim' that remain in 'Philistine territory'—sins we tolerate in particular settings—later emerge as major threats like Goliath?
3. What does incomplete conquest in Joshua's time teach about the importance of thorough obedience versus settling for partial victory?

Interlinear Text

נָתַת־רַא לֹא עָנָק יִם בָּא־רַא בָּנִי בָּנִי
H3808 left There was none of the Anakims in the land of the children
H3498 H6062 H776 H1121

נִשְׁאָרָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בָּאַשְׁדָׁ וְדַי בָּגְתָּה בָּעֵד הַנִּזְבָּד נִשְׁאָרָה
of Israel H7535 only in Gaza in Gath and in Ashdod there remained
H3478 H5804 H1661 H795 H7604

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 17:4 (Parallel theme): And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

Joshua 15:46 (Parallel theme): From Ekron even unto the sea, all that lay near Ashdod, with their villages:

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