

Joshua 15:58

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Halhul, Beth-zur, and Gedor,

Analysis

Halhul, Beth-zur, and Gedor—Beth-zur (בֵּית צוּר, "house of rock") became a significant fortress-city in later Israelite history, featuring prominently in the Maccabean wars (1 Maccabees 4:29, 6:7). Its strategic location on the road from Hebron to Jerusalem made it a key defensive position. Gedor (גְּדוֹר) was another fortified city. The inclusion of fortress-cities in tribal allotments demonstrates that God's gifts require stewardship and defense.

Inheritance doesn't eliminate responsibility—receiving the land didn't mean automatic security but required building fortifications, training warriors, and maintaining vigilance. This parallels New Testament teaching: believers have received "every spiritual blessing in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3) but must still "put on the whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6:11). Possession and vigilance, gift and responsibility, grace and works, coexist without contradiction.

Historical Context

Beth-zur was located about 4 miles north of Hebron on the watershed ridge forming the main north-south route through the hill country. Its elevation (3,320 feet) and strong position made it naturally defensible. Archaeological excavations have revealed fortifications from multiple periods, confirming its strategic importance. The site controlled access to Jerusalem from the south.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the need to fortify inherited cities illustrate that receiving God's gifts doesn't eliminate the need for faithful stewardship?
2. What does the strategic positioning of fortress-cities teach about wisdom in defending what God has given?
3. How do believers balance trust in God's gift of salvation with the responsibility to 'work out your salvation' (Philippians 2:12)?

Interlinear Text

וְגֵדוֹר:	צוֹר	בֵּית	חֶלְחָל וְ
and Gedor	Bethzur	Halhul	
H1446	H1049	H2478	

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