

Joshua 15:63

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As for the Jebusites the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out: but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem unto this day.

Analysis

As for the Jebusites the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could not drive them out—This sobering verse acknowledges incomplete conquest. The Jebusites (יבוסי) remained in Jerusalem until David finally conquered it centuries later (2 Samuel 5:6-9). The phrase "**could not drive them out**" raises questions: Was this inability due to Jebusite strength, Judahite weakness, or incomplete faith?

Judges 1:8 records that Judah did attack and burn Jerusalem, yet Jebusites remained. This suggests the city was taken but not held, possibly due to its strong defensive position. **"But the Jebusites dwell with the children of Judah at Jerusalem unto this day"**—the phrase "unto this day" indicates this was written before David's capture of Jerusalem. The Jebusite presence served as perpetual reminder of incomplete obedience and its consequences. What God commands, He enables; failure to fully possess what God gives results from inadequate faith, not inadequate power.

Historical Context

Jerusalem (Jebus) sat on a ridge surrounded by valleys on three sides, making it naturally defensible. Its elevation (2,500 feet), water source (Gihon Spring), and position controlling north-south routes made it strategically valuable. The Jebusites' ability to hold it for approximately 400 years (from Joshua to David)

demonstrates the strength of its position. David's eventual conquest (circa 1000 BC) finally fulfilled what Judah failed to accomplish.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Judah's failure to fully drive out the Jebusites warn against incomplete obedience in areas God has called us to conquer?
2. What does the eventual conquest under David teach about God's long-term faithfulness despite human failure?
3. How might tolerating 'Jebusites' (known sins, compromises) in our lives create ongoing problems that require later, more difficult confrontation?

Interlinear Text

בָּנִים וְיַעֲכֹל וְיִשְׁבֶּה בַּיּוֹם לֹא בֵּיר וְשָׁלָם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְיִמְצָא אֶת

בָּנִים	אֶת	הַיְבוֹסִים	וְשָׁב	לְהֹרִישׁ מִ	יְהוּדָה
the children	the	the Jebusites	dwell	not drive them out	of Judah
H1121	H854	H2983	H3427	H3423	H3063

בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה הַיּוֹדָה וְשָׁלֵם בֵּרֶךְ עַד יְמֵי יְהוָה
unto this day at Jerusalem of Judah H5704 H2088 H3063 H3389 H3117

Additional Cross-References

Judges 1:21 (References Jerusalem): And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this day.

Judges 1:8 (References Jerusalem): Now the children of Judah had fought against Jerusalem, and had taken it, and smitten it with the edge of the sword, and set the city on fire.

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