

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 (יְבוּסִי) 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

וְאֶת	הַיְבוּסִים	וַיָּשֻׁב	בִּיר וּשְׁלָם	לֹא	יֻכְּלוּ	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
H854	As for the Jebusites	dwelt	at Jerusalem	H3808	could	the children
	H2983	H3427	H3389		H3201	H1121

יְהוּדָה	לֹא הִדְרִישׁוּם	וַיָּשֻׁב	הַיְבוּסִים	אֶת	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
of Judah	not drive them out	dwelt	As for the Jebusites	H854	the children
H3063	H3423	H3427	H2983		H1121

יְהוּדָה	בִּיר וּשְׁלָם	עַד	הַיּוֹם	הַזֶּה:
of Judah	at Jerusalem	H5704	unto this day	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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