

Joshua 18:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Mizpeh, and Chephirah, and Mozah,

Analysis

And Mizpeh, and Chephirah, and Mozah—Mizpeh ('watchtower') served as a gathering place for Israel during the judges period (Judges 20:1). Chephirah was another Gibeonite city (Joshua 9:17). Mozah's meaning is uncertain. These cities formed a network of Benjamite settlements in the central highlands.

Mizpeh as a 'watchtower' symbolizes spiritual vigilance. Believers must 'watch and pray' (Matthew 26:41), maintaining alertness against spiritual enemies. Every generation needs Mizpehs—places of gathering, covenant renewal, and watchful prayer.

Historical Context

Mizpeh (possibly Tell en-Nasbeh) became important during the monarchy and post-exilic period. Samuel judged Israel there (1 Samuel 7:5-6), and Gedaliah governed from Mizpeh after Jerusalem's destruction (2 Kings 25:23). Its elevation made it ideal for surveillance.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What 'watchtowers' of spiritual vigilance do you maintain in your life?
2. How can gathering places like Mizpeh foster corporate covenant faithfulness today?

Interlinear Text

וְהַמִּצֶּפֶה	וְהַכֶּפִּיר	וְהַמֶּזֶה:
And Mizpeh	and Chephirah	and Mozah
H4708	H3716	H4681

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