

Joshua 21:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And out of the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon with her suburbs,
Geba with her suburbs,

Analysis

Out of the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon with her suburbs, Geba with her suburbs (מִמַּטֶּה בִּנְיָמִן אֶת־גִּבְעוֹן וְאֶת־גֶּבָע, mimateh Vinyamin et-Givon ve'et-Geva)—The shift to Benjamin introduces cities of immense historical significance. Gibeon, whose inhabitants deceived Joshua into a treaty (Joshua 9), became a high place where Solomon offered 1,000 burnt offerings and received divine wisdom (1 Kings 3:4-15). That this city of deception became a venue for divine revelation demonstrates God's sovereign purposes transcending human failure. The tabernacle remained at Gibeon during David's and early Solomon's reign (1 Chronicles 16:39; 21:29).

Geba (not to be confused with Gibeah) served as the northern border of Judah (2 Kings 23:8) and witnessed Jonathan's heroic assault on the Philistine garrison (1 Samuel 14:1-15). These strategic Benjamite cities, allocated to priests, created a spiritual corridor between Judah and northern tribes.

Historical Context

Gibeon (el-Jib), 6 miles northwest of Jerusalem, was excavated revealing a remarkable water system—a massive pool cut 35 feet into bedrock with a spiral staircase descending 80 feet to the water table. This may be the "pool of Gibeon" where Joab and Abner's forces met (2 Samuel 2:12-17). Geba (Jeba), 6 miles north of Jerusalem, controlled the strategic Wadi Suweinit pass. Both cities formed part of Benjamin's northern defensive line against Israel.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Gibeon's transformation from city of deception to place of divine revelation illustrate the gospel's power to redeem our failures?
2. Why did God place Levitical cities in Benjamin, the smallest tribe wedged between Judah and Ephraim?
3. What does the tabernacle's long residence at Gibeon teach about God working through imperfect circumstances?

Interlinear Text

וּמִמֶּנִּי ה	בְּנֵימִי י	אֶת	גִּבְעֹן וְ	אֶת	מִגְרָשָׁהּ:	אֶת
And out of the tribe	of Benjamin	H853	Gibeon	H853	with her suburbs	H853
H4294	H1144		H1391		H4054	
גִּבְעָה	אֶת	מִגְרָשָׁהּ:				
Geba	H853	with her suburbs				
H1387		H4054				

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 9:3 (Parallel theme): And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai,