

Judges 8:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.

Analysis

Thus was Midian subdued (וַיַּעֲמֹד מִדְיָן, vayikana midyan)—the verb 'to subdue' (עַמֹּד) means to humble or bring low. **They lifted up their heads no more**—a vivid idiom expressing complete defeat and inability to recover threatening posture. Despite Gideon's spiritual failure with the ephod, God's deliverance of Israel stood accomplished.

The country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon—this period of rest (שָׁقַת, shaqat, 'to be quiet, undisturbed') represents God's faithfulness to His covenant promises despite human imperfection. The forty years echoes the wilderness wandering period and Othniel's earlier rest (3:11). Yet this rest, like others in Judges, proved temporary because it depended on the judge's lifetime rather than genuine national repentance. The pattern reveals a critical truth: military deliverance without heart transformation produces only temporary relief.

Historical Context

The forty years of peace (c. 1191-1151 BC) marked one of the longer periods of stability in the Judges era. However, archaeological evidence from this period shows continued Canaanite cultural influence and religious syncretism in Israelite settlements, confirming that external peace did not equate to internal spiritual health.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God remain faithful to accomplish His purposes despite the flaws of His instruments?
2. Why does external peace often coexist with internal spiritual compromise?
3. What distinguishes temporary relief from lasting transformation in your spiritual life?

Interlinear Text

מִצְגָּפָה	וְיָצַרְתָּ	עַל	אֶל	אֶל	וְיָצַרְתָּ	לֹא	לֹא	וְיָצַרְתָּ
subdued	Thus was Midian	midian	before	the children	of Israel	H3808	no more	
H3665	H4080	H6440		H1121	H3478		H3254	

אֶרְבֶּעָה	יָמִים	בָּאָרֶץ	בָּאָרֶץ	וְאֶתְתַּחַת	רָאשֵׁם	לֹשֶׁת	לֹשֶׁת	אֶתְתַּחַת
so that they lifted up	their heads	was in quietness	And the country	forty				
H5375	H7218	H8252	H776	H705				

שָׁנֶת	בִּימֵי	גִּדְעוֹן
years	in the days	of Gideon
H8141	H3117	H1439

Additional Cross-References

Judges 5:31 (Parallel theme): So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. And the land had rest forty years.

Judges 3:11 (Parallel theme): And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

