

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 (וַיִּכְנַע מִדְיָן, vayikana midyan)—the verb 'to subdue' (כָּנַע) 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 (שָׁקֵט, 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

Psalms 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

וַיִּכְנַע ע	כִּמְדֵּי מִ	לִפְנֵי	בְּנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	וְלֹא א	יִסְפֹּךְ ו
subdued	Thus was Midian	before	the children	of Israel	H3808	no more
H3665	H4080	H6440	H1121	H3478		H3254
לָשׁוּ אֶת	רָאשָׁם	וַתִּשְׁקַט ט	הָאָרֶץ	אֶרְבַּע יָמִים		
so that they lifted up	their heads	was in quietness	And the country	forty		
H5375	H7218	H8252	H776	H705		
שָׁנָה ה	בַּיָּמִים י	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.

