

Judges 8:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age, and was buried in the sepulchre of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

Analysis

Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age—the phrase טוֹבָה שִׁבְעָה (tovah seivah, 'good old age') typically indicates divine blessing, used of Abraham (Genesis 15:15) and Job (Job 42:17). Despite his spiritual failures, Gideon died peacefully, **buried in the sepulchre of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites**—receiving honorable burial in the family tomb.

This creates theological tension: How does a man who created an idolatrous snare receive such an honorable end? The answer reveals grace. God judges by faith, not perfection—Gideon is later listed in Hebrews 11:32's 'faith hall of fame' despite his flaws. Yet the phrase 'good old age' cannot erase the coming judgment on his house. His death marks the end of an era; verse 33 immediately describes Israel's return to Baal worship. Personal blessing does not guarantee generational legacy. A man can die well yet leave behind spiritual devastation.

Historical Context

Family burial tombs (קְבָרָה, qever) were typically caves or hewn chambers where multiple generations were interred. Being 'gathered to one's fathers' represented an important cultural value. The Abiezrites were a clan within Manasseh (6:11). Gideon likely died around 1151 BC after forty years of judgeship and some years of retirement.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's grace cover failures even while their consequences ripple through generations?
2. What legacy are you creating that will outlast your lifetime, for good or ill?
3. Can you die peacefully while knowing your spiritual compromises will harm your descendants?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּמֻת	רְגִדְעֹן	בְּשִׁבְעָה	וְיֹאשָׁבֵן	טֹבַה	רְגִדְעֹן
died	And Gideon	the son	of Joash	old age	in a good
H4191	H1439	H1121	H3101	H7872	H2896
					and was buried
					H6912
בְּקָרְבֵן	אָבִיו	בְּעֵפֶר	הַאֲבִיאֶזְרִיִּים		
in the sepulchre	of Joash	his father	in Ophrah	H0	of the Abiezrites
H6913	H3101	H1	H6084		H33

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 25:8 (Good): Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

Job 5:26 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season.

Genesis 15:15 (Good): And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

Judges 6:24 (Parallel theme): Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovah-shalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org