

Judges 8:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Neither shewed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, namely, Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had shewed unto Israel.

Analysis

Neither shewed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, namely, Gideon—chesed (חֶסֶד), the great covenant word meaning 'loyal love, steadfast kindness,' appears here in its absence. **According to all the goodness which he had shewed unto Israel—**despite Gideon's deliverance of the nation from Midianite oppression, Israel failed to show gratitude or protect his descendants. This ingratitude foreshadows Abimelech's murder of Gideon's seventy sons (9:5).

The double failure—forgetting God (v. 34) and betraying Gideon's house (v. 35)—demonstrates that those who fail in vertical relationship with God inevitably fail in horizontal relationships with others. Love for God and love for neighbor cannot be separated (Matthew 22:37-40). Israel's treatment of Gideon's family mirrors their treatment of God: both received their benefits gladly but betrayed them afterward. This chapter concludes on a note of tragic irony: the man who wouldn't be king dies peacefully, but his family receives no honor, and the nation for which he fought immediately abandons God. Victory without transformation leads to greater tragedy.

Historical Context

Gratitude toward deliverers and protection of their families was expected in ancient Near Eastern culture. The brutal treatment of Gideon's sons by Abimelech, aided by Shechemites (chapter 9), represents a shocking violation of honor codes.

This ingratitude parallels Israel's later rejection of Samuel's leadership and his sons (1 Samuel 8), and ultimately their crucifixion of Messiah.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does your relationship with God affect your treatment of others who have served you?
2. In what ways do you receive benefits from God and others but fail to show loyal love in return?
3. What does biblical *chesed* (covenant loyalty) require in your relationships with spiritual leaders and their families?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא שָׁוַע הָעֵד עִם בֵּית יְהוָה יְרֻבָּע עַל
H3808 Neither shewed H2617 they kindness H5973 to the house H1004 of Jerubbaal
H6213 H2617 H5973 H1004 H3378

עַל גִּדְעֹן כָּל הַטּוֹב הַר אֲשֶׁר שָׁוַע הָעֵד עִם
namely Gideon H3605 according to all the goodness H834 Neither shewed H5973
H1439 H2896 H6213 H5973

וְלֹא שָׁרָא
unto Israel
H3478