

1 Samuel 11:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

Analysis

Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

The messengers arrive at Gibeah, Saul's hometown and the future capital of his kingdom. That the people 'lifted up their voices and wept' indicates both deep compassion for their kinsmen and fear of their own vulnerability. The corporate weeping represents a spontaneous national mourning that sets the stage for divine intervention. God often moves His people to grief before granting deliverance, preparing hearts to recognize that salvation comes from Him alone.

Historical Context

Gibeah of Benjamin was strategically located in the hill country, about three miles north of Jerusalem. Its recent shameful history (Judges 19-20) made its emergence as the seat of kingship a demonstration of God's redemptive purposes. The town's association with Saul would continue throughout his reign.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does communal grief and prayer prepare the way for God's intervention?
2. What crises in your community should move believers to corporate weeping and intercession?

Interlinear Text

וְיַבְאֵן	בְּמִלְאָכִים	גְּבֻעָת	וְלִשְׁאָא	יִזְבְּרֵר	יְמִינָךְ
Then came	the messengers	to Gibeath	of Saul	and told	the tidings
H935	H4397	H1390	H7586	H1696	H1697
בְּאָזְנֵי	בְּכָל	בְּשָׁמֶן	בְּשָׁמֶן	בְּאָזְנֵי	קְוָלָם
in the ears	and all the people	lifted up	Iishay	and all the people	את
H241	H5971	H5375	H3605	H5971	H853
תִּבְּכָה:					their voices
and wept					H6963
H1058					

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 10:26 (Parallel theme): And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

Judges 2:4 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept.

1 Samuel 15:34 (Parallel theme): Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

1 Samuel 30:4 (Parallel theme): Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

Judges 21:2 (Parallel theme): And the people came to the house of God, and abode there till even before God, and lifted up their voices, and wept sore;

