

1 Samuel 11:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

Analysis

And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

Saul's dramatic action of cutting the oxen in pieces and sending them throughout Israel served as a vivid summons to war and a solemn warning of consequences for non-compliance. The phrase 'the fear of the LORD fell on the people' indicates this was no mere human manipulation but divine intervention compelling response. The 'one consent' (echad - one, unity) marks a rare moment of tribal solidarity that prefigures what unified kingdom could accomplish. Saul associates Samuel with the summons, acknowledging prophetic authority alongside royal power.

Historical Context

This symbolic action parallels the horrific events of Judges 19:29, where a Levite's concubine was dismembered to summon Israel against Benjamin. Saul transforms

this gruesome precedent into legitimate royal authority to muster troops. Ancient Near Eastern suzerains commonly sent symbolic threats to enforce vassal compliance.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does fear of the LORD produce unity among God's people?
2. What role should healthy fear play in motivating obedience to divine commands?

Interlinear Text

וְקָח	צֵמָד	לְבָקָר ו	וַיִּנְתֵּם הוּ	וַיִּשְׁלַח ח	בְּכָל
And he took	a yoke	of oxen	and hewed them in pieces	and sent	H3605
H3947	H6776	H1241	H5408	H7971	
גַּב וּל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּיָד	הַמַּלְאָכִים	לֵאמֹר	
them throughout all the coasts	of Israel	by the hands	of messengers	saying	
H1366	H3478	H3027	H4397	H559	
אֲשֶׁר	אֵין נֹ	וְצָא ו	אַחֲרָי	אַחֲרֵי שְׁאוּל	
H834	H369	Whosoever cometh not forth	after	Saul	after
		H3318	H310	H7586	H310
לְשִׁמוּאֵל	כֹּה	יַעֲשֶׂה ה	לְבָקָר ו	וַיִּפֹּל ל	פָּחַד
Samuel	H3541	so shall it be done	of oxen	fell	And the fear
H8050		H6213	H1241	H5307	H6343
יְהוָה	עַל	הָעָם	וְצָא ו	כָּאֵשׁ	אַחַד:
of the LORD	H5921	on the people	Whosoever cometh not forth	consent	with one
H3068		H5971	H3318	H376	H259

Additional Cross-References

Judges 19:29 (References Israel): And when he was come into his house, he took a knife, and laid hold on his concubine, and divided her, together with her bones, into twelve pieces, and sent her into all the coasts of Israel.

Judges 20:1 (References Lord): Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, with the land of Gilead, unto the LORD in Mizpeh.