

# 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

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**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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

בְּכָל	וַיִּשְׁלַח	וְיָצַא	לְבָקָר וְאֶמֶד	לִנְתַחַת הָוֹת	לְבָקָר וְאֶמֶד	וְיָצַא	וְיָצַא	וְיָצַא	וְיָצַא
And he took	a yoke	of oxen	and hewed them in pieces	and sent					
H3947	H6776	H1241	H5408	H7971					
גַּבְעַל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי דָבָר	יִמְלָאֵךְ	לְאָמֵר					
them throughout all the coasts	of Israel	by the hands	of messengers	saying					
H1366	H3478	H3027	H4397	H559					
אֲשֶׁר	אֵין כֵּן	אֵין כֵּן	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר					
H834	H369	Whosoever cometh not forth	after	Saul					
		H3318	H310	H7586					
שְׁמֹאֵל	רָאֵם	רָאֵם	רָאֵם	רָאֵם					
Samuel	H3541	so shall it be done	of oxen	fell	And the fear				
H8050		H6213	H1241	H5307	H6343				
אָמֵד:	כִּאֵשׁ	יִתְאַחֲרֵךְ	וְיִתְאַחֲרֵךְ	וְיִתְאַחֲרֵךְ	וְיִתְאַחֲרֵךְ				
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.