

1 Samuel 13:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people that were present with them, abode in Gibeah of Benjamin: but the Philistines encamped in Michmash.

Analysis

And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people that were present with them, abode in Gibeah of Benjamin: but the Philistines encamped in Michmash.

The positioning of Saul, Jonathan, and their small force in Gibeah while the Philistines occupied Michmash creates the geographical setting for Jonathan's heroic action in chapter 14. The Hebrew yashab ('abode') suggests stationary, passive waiting - Saul has lost initiative after his rejection. The contrast between the paralyzed king and his bold son emerges as a major theme. Saul's spiritual failure has translated into military passivity; he awaits events rather than seeking God's guidance for action.

Historical Context

Geba (or Gibeah) and Michmash were separated by a deep wadi (valley) about four miles apart. The Philistine occupation of Michmash gave them strategic control of the central hill country and blocked Israelite movement. This standoff continued until Jonathan's initiative.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does spiritual failure affect our capacity for faithful action?
2. What is the difference between patient waiting on God and passive paralysis from failed leadership?

Interlinear Text

עָמָד בְּנֶמֶץ אֶשְׁאָל יְהוָה בֶּן יְהוָה וְיַעֲמֵד יְהוָה

And Saul and Jonathan his son and the people that were present H5973

H7586

H3129

H1121

H5971

H4672

בָּנָם וְפָלָשָׁת יְם בְּנֵי יִשְׁבָּי מ

with them abode in Gibeah of Benjamin but the Philistines encamped

H3427

H1387

H1144

H6430

H2583

בְּמִכְמָשָׁן

in Michmash

H4363

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