

1 Samuel 13:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.

Analysis

So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.

The military implication is stark: 'in the day of battle, there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people.' Only Saul and Jonathan possessed proper weapons. This impossible military situation - an essentially unarmed force against iron-equipped Philistines - sets the stage for God's dramatic deliverance in chapter 14. Human resources are deliberately shown to be inadequate so that divine power receives full credit. The pattern recalls Gideon's reduced army and foreshadows many biblical deliverances.

Historical Context

The contrast between Israelite and Philistine armament was extreme. Philistines possessed iron weapons, chariots, and professional soldiers. Israel had agricultural implements as improvised weapons and only two actual swords. Humanly speaking, victory was impossible.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God often arrange circumstances so that His power alone can receive credit?
2. When have you seen God work through completely inadequate human resources?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּהֲיֵה	H1961	So it came to pass	בַּיּוֹם	H3117	in the day	וְיָמִן	H4421	of battle	מִתְּמָצָא	H3808	found
תְּמִימָן	H2719	that there was	נִמְמָתָר	H2595	neither sword	רַבְבָּה	H3027	nor spear	בְּיַד	H3605	in the hand
בְּיַד	H5971	of any of the people	כָּל	H4672	found	בְּעֵמָה	H5971	of any of the people	כָּל	H3808	found
בְּנֵי	H7586	but with Saul	וְלֹא	H853	and Jonathan	וְלֹא	H3129	but with Saul	וְלֹא	H7586	but with Saul
בְּנֵי	H1121	his son	וְלֹא	H853	and Jonathan	וְלֹא	H3129	his son	וְלֹא	H853	and Jonathan

Additional Cross-References

Judges 5:8 (Parallel theme): They chose new gods; then was war in the gates: was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?

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