

1 Samuel 14:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if they say thus, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the LORD hath delivered them into our hand: and this shall be a sign unto us.

Analysis

But if they say thus, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the LORD hath delivered them into our hand: and this shall be a sign unto us.

The confirming sign - 'Come up unto us' - is interpreted as divine guarantee: 'the LORD hath delivered them into our hand.' The Philistine challenge, humanly a tactical advantage (forcing attackers to climb toward defended positions), becomes Jonathan's assurance of victory. What appears as greater danger ('we will go up') is received as certain success. Faith transforms apparent disadvantage into confirmed opportunity. Jonathan's confidence is not in his climbing ability but in divine deliverance.

Historical Context

Military advantage in ancient warfare typically belonged to defenders on high ground. The Philistines' invitation to 'come up' would normally ensure their tactical superiority. Jonathan's faith reinterprets this tactical situation through theological lens.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does faith reinterpret apparent disadvantages as opportunities for God's glory?
2. When has what seemed like greater difficulty actually confirmed God's leading?

Interlinear Text

כֹּה יֹאמְרוּ וְעָלְנוּ עַל יְהוָה
H518 H3541 But if they say thus Come up H5921 H3588 thus Come up H5927

וְהָיָה לָנוּ בְּיַד יְהוָה וְהָיָה לָנוּ
H5414 H3068 H3027 H2088 H0

וְהָיָה לָנוּ
H226

and this shall be a sign

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 24:14 (Parallel theme): And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

1 Samuel 10:7 (Parallel theme): And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.

Judges 7:11 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that were in the host.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org