

1 Samuel 14:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves.

Analysis

And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves.

Jonathan and his armor-bearer 'discovered themselves' (galah) - made themselves known, exposed themselves to danger. The Philistines' contemptuous response - 'Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves' - reveals their arrogant assumption that Israel was broken and hiding. Their mockery blinds them to the faith-driven attack coming their way. Pride precedes destruction; the Philistines' disdain becomes their downfall.

Historical Context

The Philistine taunt about Israelites hiding 'in holes' reflects the actual situation - many Israelites had indeed fled to caves (13:6). The enemy's accurate assessment of Israel's weakness made Jonathan's attack seem laughable. This overconfidence contributed to Philistine unpreparedness.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does enemy contempt sometimes contribute to faith's victory?
2. When has your apparent weakness caused opponents to underestimate what God could do?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּגְלּוּ of them discovered H1540	וְשֵׁנֵיהֶם And both H8147	אֶל H413	מִצָּב themselves unto the garrison H4673	וּפְלִשְׁתֵּי יָם and the Philistines H6430	
וַיֹּאמֶר said H559	וּפְלִשְׁתֵּי יָם and the Philistines H6430	הִנֵּה H2009	עֲבָרִים Behold the Hebrews H5680	וַיֵּצֵא יָם come forth H3318	מִן H4480
מִחֹר יָם out of the holes H2356	אֲשֶׁר H834	הִתְחַבְּאוּ where they had hid H2244	שָׁם H8033		

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 13:6 (Parallel theme): When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.

1 Samuel 14:22 (Parallel theme): Likewise all the men of Israel which had hid themselves in mount Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, even they also followed hard after them in the battle.