

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

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

וְאֵלֶּל וְ	שְׁנַיִם	אֶל	מִצְבֵּחַ	פָּלָשָׁת יִם
of them discovered	And both	H413	themselves unto the garrison	and the Philistines
H1540	H8147		H4673	H6430
וַיֹּאמֶר וְ	פָּלָשָׁת יִם	הִנֵּה	עֲבָרִים	וַיָּאֵם וְ
said	and the Philistines	H2009	Behold the Hebrews	come forth
H559	H6430		H5680	H4480
וְאֵשׁ רַ	הַתְּמִבָּאוֹ	שָׁמָן		
out of the holes	where they had hid	H2244		
H2356				

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.