

1 Samuel 14:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armourbearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing. And Jonathan said unto his armourbearer, Come up after me: for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Israel.

Analysis

And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armourbearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing. And Jonathan said unto his armourbearer, Come up after me: for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Israel.

The garrison's mocking invitation - 'Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing' - provides the exact sign Jonathan sought. Their words drip with sarcasm, anticipating easy slaughter of the climbing Israelites. Jonathan's response - 'Come up after me: for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Israel' - transforms enemy mockery into prophetic confirmation. The Hebrew natan ('delivered' or 'given') treats the victory as already accomplished. Past tense faith claims future triumph.

Historical Context

The Philistine phrase 'we will shew you a thing' likely meant 'we will teach you a lesson' - a threat of violence. Ancient Near Eastern warriors commonly exchanged taunts before combat. Jonathan hears divine confirmation where the enemy intended intimidation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How can we hear God's voice even through hostile mockery?
2. What does speaking of future deliverance in past tense reveal about the nature of faith?

Interlinear Text

answered	H376	of the garrison	H4675	and Jonathan	H3129	to us and we will shew	H3045
H6030		H4675		H3129		H3045	
and his armourbearer	H5375	and said	H559	Come up	H5927		
H853		H559		H413			
you a thing	H1697	and said	H559	And Jonathan	H3129	and his armourbearer	H5375
H853		H559		H413		H5375	
Come up	H5927	after	H310	hath delivered	H5414	me for the LORD	H3068
H3627		H3588		H5414		H3068	
them into the hand	H3027	of Israel	H3478				

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 5:24 (References Lord): And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Philistines.

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