

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

וַעֲנוּ	אֲנִישׁ י	הַמִּצָּד ה	אֶת	יֹנָתָן	וְאֶת
answered	H376	of the garrison	H853	And Jonathan	H853
H6030		H4675		H3129	
וְנִשְׂא	כָּל יוֹ	וַיֹּאמֶר	עָלֵה	אֵלַי ינו	וְנוֹדֵי יָעֵה
and his armourbearer	H3627	and said	Come up	H413	to us and we will shew
H5375		H559	H5927		H3045
וְאֶתְּךָ מ	דָּבָר ר	וַיֹּאמֶר	יֹנָתָן	אֶל	נִשְׂא א
H853	you a thing	and said	And Jonathan	H413	and his armourbearer
	H1697	H559	H3129		H5375
כָּלִיו	עָלֵה	אַחֲרַי	כִּי	נָתַתָּ מ	יְהוָה ה
H3627	Come up	after	H3588	hath delivered	me for the LORD
	H5927	H310		H5414	H3068
בְּיָד	יִשְׂרָאֵל:				
them into the hand	of Israel				
H3027	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.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org