

1 Samuel 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling.

Analysis

And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling.

The Hebrew charadah ('trembling') spread through every level of Philistine forces: 'in the host, in the field, and among all the people.' Even the garrison and the raiding parties experienced this divine terror. The phrase 'the earth quaked' may indicate literal seismic activity or describe the total nature of the panic - so severe it felt as if the ground itself shook. This 'very great trembling' (cherdat elohim, 'trembling of God') explicitly identifies the source as divine, not merely psychological. God fights for Israel.

Historical Context

Divine terror (cherdat elohim) appears in other biblical accounts where God directly intervenes in battle (Exodus 23:27; Joshua 2:9; Judges 7:21). This supernatural panic, unconnected to military circumstances, demonstrates that victory comes from Yahweh, not Israelite prowess.

Genesis 35:5 (Parallel theme): And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob.

Exodus 19:18 (Parallel theme): And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

2 Samuel 5:24 (Parallel theme): 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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