

1 Samuel 14:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Saul unto the people that were with him, Number now, and see who is gone from us. And when they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armourbearer were not there.

Analysis

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Saul's command to 'Number now, and see who is gone from us' seeks information when action is needed. The discovery that 'Jonathan and his armourbearer were not there' reveals Saul was ignorant of the very initiative that produced the victory he now observes. The king sits counting while his son fights. This administrative response to divine intervention continues Saul's pattern of form over faith. He manages logistics while God acts through the faith-filled.

Historical Context

Military commanders regularly accounted for their forces. Saul's numbering reveals both proper procedure and delayed response. The time taken to number the 600 men while battle raged demonstrates misplaced priorities. Jonathan's absence explained the mysterious Philistine collapse.

