

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

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.

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.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How can proper procedures become excuses for avoiding faithful action?
2. What does Saul's ignorance of Jonathan's action reveal about his leadership?

Interlinear Text

Then said	Saul	unto the people	H834	H854
H559	H7586	H5971		
from us	And when	they had numbered	H4994	now and see
H6485			H7200	who is gone
H5973			H369	H1980
and his armourbearer				
H5375				
and his armourbearer				
H3627				

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