

1 Samuel 14:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul said unto Ahiah, Bring hither the ark of God. For the ark of God was at that time with the children of Israel.

Analysis

And Saul said unto Ahiah, Bring hither the ark of God. For the ark of God was at that time with the children of Israel.

Saul's request for 'the ark of God' indicates desire for divine guidance through proper religious channels. Yet his consultation contrasts with Jonathan's active faith. The note that 'the ark of God was at that time with the children of Israel' marks a change from when the Philistines captured it (chapters 4-6). Saul reaches for religious ritual while God works through individual faith. The ark represents God's presence, but presence without obedience proves futile.

Historical Context

After the ark's return from Philistia, it remained at Kiriath-jearim (7:1-2) rather than at Shiloh, which was apparently destroyed. Saul's summons of the ark indicates desire for tangible divine presence to guide military decisions. Some manuscripts read 'ephod' instead of 'ark,' referring to the priestly garment used for obtaining divine guidance.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can religious rituals become substitutes for living faith?
2. What is the difference between seeking God's presence and seeking His guidance through obedience?

Interlinear Text

כִּי הָאֱלֹהִים יִם אֶרֶץ וְהַיָּם
said And Saul unto Ahiah Bring hither For the ark of God H3588
H559 H7586 H281 H5066 H727 H430

וּבְנֵי יִהְיֶה וְאֵלֶּיךָ
H1961 For the ark of God was at that time H1931 with the children
H727 H430 H3117 H1121

יִשְׂרָאֵל:
of Israel
H3478