

1 Samuel 14:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, while Saul talked unto the priest, that the noise that was in the host of the Philistines went on and increased: and Saul said unto the priest, Withdraw thine hand.

Analysis

And it came to pass, while Saul talked unto the priest, that the noise that was in the host of the Philistines went on and increased: and Saul said unto the priest, Withdraw thine hand.

As Saul consults with the priest, 'the noise that was in the host of the Philistines went on and increased.' Divine action outpaces Saul's deliberation. His command 'Withdraw thine hand' interrupts the priestly consultation because the opportunity for action cannot wait for religious process. Saul finally moves, but his response remains reactive rather than faith-initiated. The contrast with Jonathan's proactive faith highlights Saul's spiritual deficit - he follows events God creates rather than initiating through faith.

Historical Context

The phrase 'withdraw thine hand' indicates Saul ordered the priest to stop the divinatory procedure, possibly involving Urim and Thummim manipulation. Ancient Near Eastern leaders commonly halted religious consultations when military developments demanded immediate action.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. When do religious processes become hindrances to faithful action?
2. How do we balance seeking guidance with seizing God-given opportunities?

Interlinear Text

יְהִי H1961	עַד H5704	דָּבַר H1696	שָׁא וּל H7586	אֶל H413	הַכֹּהֵן H3548
		talked	And it came to pass while Saul		unto the priest
	וְהָמָּוּן H1995	אָשֶׁר H834	בְּמַחֲנֵה H4264	פְּלִשְׁתֵּי H6430	וַיֵּלֶךְ H3212
	that the noise		that was in the host	of the Philistines	went
					on
	וַיִּב H7227	וַיֹּאמֶר H559	שָׁא וּל H7586	אֶל H413	הַכֹּהֵן H3548
	and increased	said	And it came to pass while Saul		unto the priest
	אֶסְף H622	יָדְךָ H3027			
	Withdraw	thine hand			

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 27:21 (Parallel theme): And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

1 Samuel 14:24 (Parallel theme): And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted any food.

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