

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

וַיְהִי י H1961	עָדָה H5704	דָּבַר H1696	וְשָׁא וְל H7586	אֶל H413	הַכֹּהֵן H3548
		talked	And it came to pass while Saul		unto the priest
וְהָמָּה וְ H1995	וְהָמָּה וְ H1995	אֲשֶׁר H834	בְּמַחֲנֵה הַ H4264	פְּלִשְׁתֵּי יָם H6430	וַיֵּלֶךְ H3212
that the noise	that the noise	that was in the host	of the Philistines	went	on
					H1980
וַיִּבָּרַךְ H7227	וַיֵּאמֶר H559	וְשָׁא וְל H7586	אֶל H413	הַכֹּהֵן H3548	
and increased	said	And it came to pass while Saul		unto the priest	
אֶסְרָה H622	יָדִי 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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