

1 Samuel 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul tarried in the uttermost part of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron: and the people that were with him were about six hundred men;

Analysis

And Saul tarried in the uttermost part of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron: and the people that were with him were about six hundred men;

While Jonathan prepares to advance, Saul 'tarried' (yoshev) 'in the uttermost part of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree.' The contrast could not be sharper: the king sits passively while his son advances in faith. The mention of 'about six hundred men' recalls the depleted force from chapter 13 - Saul has gained nothing through his failed sacrifice. The pomegranate tree at Migron creates a picture of royal inaction, the king literally 'sitting it out' while his kingdom crumbles.

Historical Context

Pomegranate trees provided shade in the hot Palestinian climate. The location 'in the uttermost part of Gibeah' suggests Saul positioned himself as far as possible from the Philistine threat while maintaining a presence. This defensive posture contrasts with Jonathan's offensive action.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What causes leaders to become passive when decisive action is needed?
2. How does fear of failure produce the very failure it fears?

Interlinear Text

וְיֹשֵׁב	בְּקֵצַהּ	הַגִּבְעָה	תַּחַת	
And Saul	tarried	in the uttermost	part of Gibeah	H8478
H7586	H3427	H7097	H1390	
תַּחַת הָאֶשְׁרָה	בְּמִגְרֹן	וְהָעָם	אֲשֶׁר	
under a pomegranate tree	which is in Migron	and the people		H834
H7416	H4051	H5971		
וְעִמּוֹ	כֶּשֶׁשׁ	יָמָא	אִישׁ:	
H5973	that were with him were about six	hundred	men	
	H8337	H3967	H376	

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org