

1 Samuel 14:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Likewise all the men of Israel which had hid themselves in mount Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, even they also followed hard after them in the battle.

Analysis

Likewise all the men of Israel which had hid themselves in mount Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, even they also followed hard after them in the battle.

Those who had 'hid themselves in mount Ephraim' - the frightened Israelites of 13:6 who fled to caves and pits - now 'heard that the Philistines fled' and 'followed hard after them in the battle.' The Hebrew *davaq* ('followed hard' or 'clung') describes aggressive pursuit. Fear transforms to courage when God's power becomes evident. The same people who hid now pursue. Divine victory emboldens those who lacked faith for the initial fight.

Historical Context

Mount Ephraim's caves and forests provided hiding places for refugees during Philistine dominance. The emergence of these hidden Israelites swelled the pursuing force significantly. Their participation in pursuit, if not in initial combat, contributed to the totality of the Philistine defeat.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does witnessing God's power transform fearful people into bold participants?
2. What responsibility do those who hid during the battle have in pursuit of the fleeing enemy?

Interlinear Text

וְכָל־	אִישׁ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	הַמְתַּחְבֵּאִים	בְּהָרִים
H3605	Likewise all the men	of Israel	which had hid	themselves in mount
	H376	H3478	H2244	H2022
אֶפְרַיִם	שָׁמְעוּ	כִּי	נָסוּ	פְּלִשְׁתִּים
Ephraim	when they heard	H3588	fled	that the Philistines
H669	H8085		H5127	H6430
וַיִּדְבֹקוּ	גַם	הַמָּה	אַחֲרֶיהֶם	בַּמִּלְחָמָה
even they also followed hard	H1571	H1992	after	them in the battle
H1692			H310	H4421

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 13:6 (References Israel): When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.