

1 Samuel 14:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all they of the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground.

Analysis

And all they of the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground.

The narrative describes abundant provision - 'there was honey upon the ground' - that Saul's oath forbade the troops to enjoy. Honey dripping in the forest pictures God's blessing available but prohibited by human decree. The irony deepens: God provides strength for battle, but the king's command prevents reception. Saul's religious scrupulosity (fasting for victory) actually hinders what God freely offers. Legal restrictions can block divine provision.

Historical Context

Wild honey was a significant food source in ancient Palestine, providing quick energy. The 'wood' (forest) contained beehives in trees or rocks. This natural abundance during pursuit offered practical sustenance that Saul's oath prohibited.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do human religious requirements sometimes prevent receiving God's provision?
2. When has unnecessary restriction blocked blessing God intended for you?

Interlinear Text

וְכָל	הָאָרֶץ	בָּאוּ	בַּיָּעַר	וַיְהִי י	דָּבַשׁ	עַל
H3605	And all they of the land	came	to a wood	H1961	and there was honey	H5921
	H776	H935	H3293		H1706	
פָּנָיו	הַשָּׂדֶה:					
upon	the ground					
H6440	H7704					

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