

1 Samuel 14:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.

Analysis

But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.

Jonathan's ignorance of the oath - 'Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people' - creates dramatic tension. He takes honey freely, and 'his eyes were enlightened' - physical refreshment that pictures spiritual truth. The Hebrew phrase for enlightened eyes (va-ta'ornah einav) describes renewed energy and clarity. Jonathan receives what his father prohibited, experiences blessing his father's oath denied the army. The one who initiated victory through faith now unknowingly violates the king's command.

Historical Context

The phrase 'his eyes were enlightened' indicates recovery from the faintness of exhaustion. Ancient warriors recognized that extreme hunger affected vision and mental clarity. Jonathan's refreshment demonstrates the practical folly of Saul's oath.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does Jonathan's experience of blessing through ignorance of bad rules suggest about such rules?
2. How does physical refreshment sometimes picture deeper spiritual truth?

Interlinear Text

בְּהַשְׁבָּעַ יְשַׁמֵּעַ	לֹא	יָוִונָתָן	אָבִיו	אַתָּה	בְּעָם
But Jonathan	H3808	heard	charged	not when his father	the people
	H3129	H8085	H7650	H1	H5971
וְשָׁלַחַ	אַתָּה	לֹא	רְמַטָּה	אָשָׁר	וַיַּבְلִיל
wherefore he put forth	H853	the end	לֹא	רְמַטָּה	וַיַּדְוֵל
	H7971	H7097	H4294	H834	H2881
וְשִׁבַּעַת	אָוֹתָה	בְּיַעַבְתָּ	פְּדַבְתָּ	וְיַדְוֵל	וְיַדְבֵּל
it in an honeycomb	H853	H3295	H1706	H7725	H413
			and put	his hand	to his mouth
וְיִבְרְאֵל	אָנָּה	וְיִפְרְאֵל	אָל	וְיִלְבְּד	וְיִלְבְּד
were enlightened	H215	H5869			H6310

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 30:12 (Parallel theme): And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk any water, three days and three nights.

1 Samuel 14:29 (Light): Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.

1 Samuel 14:43 (Parallel theme): Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what thou hast done. And Jonathan told him, and said, I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in mine hand, and, lo, I must die.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org