

# 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

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**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

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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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיֹּנֶת	לֹא	שָׁמַע	בְּהִשָּׁבַיַע	אָבִיו	אֶת	הָעָם
<b>But Jonathan</b>	H3808	<b>heard</b>	<b>charged</b>	<b>not when his father</b>	H853	<b>the people</b>
H3129		H8085	H7650	H1		H5971
וַשִּׁלַּח	אֶת	קֶצֶה	הַמֶּטֶה	אֶשֶׁר	יָדוֹ	וַיִּטֹּבֵל
<b>wherefore he put forth</b>	H853	<b>the end</b>	<b>of the rod</b>	H834	<b>his hand</b>	<b>and dipped</b>
H7971		H7097	H4294		H3027	H2881
אֹתָהּ	בִּיעֹבֵר	הַדֶּבֶשׁ	וַיִּשָּׁב	יָדוֹ	אֶל	פִּי יוֹ
H853	<b>it in an honeycomb</b>	H1706	<b>and put</b>	<b>his hand</b>	H413	<b>to his mouth</b>
	H3295		H7725	H3027		H6310
וַתִּרְאָה	עֵינָיו:					
<b>were enlightened</b>	<b>and his eyes</b>					
H215	H5869					

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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