

1 Samuel 14:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then answered one of the people, and said, Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food this day. And the people were faint.

Analysis

Then answered one of the people, and said, Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food this day. And the people were faint.

A soldier informs Jonathan of the oath and curse, adding 'the people were faint.' This addition indicts Saul - his command for religious discipline has weakened rather than strengthened his army. The contrast is clear: Jonathan, who ate, is strengthened; the army, which obeyed, is faint. Saul's 'spiritual' leadership produces practical disaster. The informing soldier's comment implies recognition that the oath was problematic, though no one dared challenge it openly.

Historical Context

The soldier's information serves as formal notification that Jonathan now knowingly stands under his father's curse. Ancient Near Eastern culture considered ignorance a valid excuse, but knowledge created responsibility. Jonathan must now respond to this situation.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. When have religious rules produced weakness rather than strength in God's people?
2. How should we respond when informed we have unknowingly violated human religious requirements?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַן	הָאִישׁ	הָעָם:	לֵאמֹר	הַשֹּׁבֵי יַעַ	הַשֹּׁבֵי יַעַ
Then answered	be the man	And the people	and said	charged	charged
H6030	H376	H5971	H559	H7650	H7650
אָבִיךָ	אֶת	הָעָם:	לֵאמֹר	אָרֹר	הָאִישׁ
Thy father	H853	And the people	and said	Cursed	be the man
H1		H5971	H559	H779	H376
יֹאכֵל	לֶחֶם	הַיּוֹם	וַיִּפְּ	הָעָם:	
that eateth	any food	this day	were faint	And the people	
H398	H3899	H3117	H5774	H5971	