

# 1 Samuel 14:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found? for had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?

## Analysis

---

**How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found? for had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?**

Jonathan extends his critique: 'How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies?' He argues that the oath not only harmed the army but limited the victory. 'Had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?' The hypothetical suggests Saul's religious excess allowed enemy escape. Jonathan's military analysis exposes the practical consequences of impractical piety. True spiritual leadership strengthens rather than weakens God's people for their calling.

## Historical Context

---

Ancient armies commonly relied on captured enemy supplies to sustain campaigns. Saul's prohibition of eating meant troops fought exhausted, limiting pursuit capacity. Jonathan's counterfactual reasoning - 'how much more' - was a common rhetorical strategy.

## Related Passages

---

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

---

1. How does bad spiritual leadership limit what God's people could accomplish?
2. What victories are lost because of unnecessary religious restrictions?

## Interlinear Text

---

מִשְׁלֵל	ל	הָעֵמֶק	הַיּוֹם	אָכַל	לֹא	כִּי	אַךְ	אַךְ	מִשְׁלֵל
How much more	H3588	if haply	H3863	freely	H398	freely	H398	to day	H3117
	H637							the people	H5971
								of the spoil	H7998
לֹא	עָתָה	הַיּוֹם	אַךְ	מִצְאָה	אָשָׁר	אַיִלָּה	אַיִלָּה	לֹא	מִשְׁלֵל
of their enemies	H834	which they found	H4672	H3588	H6258	H3808			
	H341								
רָבָת	הַ	מִכְהָלָה	הַ	בְּפִלְשָׁתִים:					
for had there not been now a much greater	H7235	slaughter	H4347	among the Philistines	H6430				

---

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org