

# 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

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**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

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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

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

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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

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אֵךְ	כִּי	לֹא	אָכַל	אָכַל	הַיּוֹם	הָעָם	מִשָּׁלַל
How much more	H3588	if haply	freely	freely	to day	the people	of the spoil
H637		H3863	H398	H398	H3117	H5971	H7998
אֹיְבֵי יוֹ	אֲשֶׁר	מָצְאוּ	כִּי	עַתָּה	לֹא		
of their enemies	H834	which they found	H3588	H6258	H3808		
H341		H4672					
כִּבְתָּהּ		מִכָּה	בְּפִלְשְׁתִּים:				
for had there not been now a much greater		slaughter	among the Philistines				
H7235		H4347	H6430				