

# 1 Samuel 14:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they smote the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon: and the people were very faint.

## Analysis

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**And they smote the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon: and the people were very faint.**

Despite their faint condition, the Israelites 'smote the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon.' The distance - approximately 15 miles of difficult terrain - demonstrates significant victory despite Saul's interference. However, at the end 'the people were very faint,' emphasizing again the cost of the oath. God grants victory despite poor leadership, but leadership failure exacts a price even in triumph. The troops are exhausted beyond normal battle fatigue.

## Historical Context

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Aijalon was in the Shephelah, the foothills leading to the coastal plain. This pursuit path took the Israelites from the central highlands down toward Philistine home territory. The distance indicates a major defeat, though not complete destruction of Philistine power.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does God accomplish purposes despite leadership failures?
2. What is the cost of victory when achieved under poor spiritual leadership?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּכּוּ	בַּיּוֹם	הַהוּא	בַּפִּלְשְׁתִּים	מִמִּכְמֶשׁ	אֶל־נָה
And they smote	that day	H1931	the Philistines	from Michmash	to Aijalon
H5221	H3117		H6430	H4363	H357
וַיִּפֹּאֵז	הָעָם	מְאֹד:			
faint	and the people	were very			
H5774	H5971	H3966			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 10:12** (Parallel theme): Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.