

1 Samuel 14:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul said, Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and spoil them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them. And they said, Do whatsoever seemeth good unto thee. Then said the priest, Let us draw near hither unto God.

Analysis

And Saul said, Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and spoil them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them. And they said, Do whatsoever seemeth good unto thee. Then said the priest, Let us draw near hither unto God.

Saul proposes night attack: 'Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and spoil them until the morning light.' The military aggressiveness contrasts with his earlier passivity (verse 2). The priest's counsel to 'draw near hither unto God' suggests need for divine guidance before such action. Saul's willingness to consult God - 'Do whatsoever seemeth good unto thee' - appears appropriately submissive. The pattern of seeking God after decision, rather than before, continues.

Historical Context

Night attacks were risky in ancient warfare due to coordination difficulties, but could achieve surprise. The priest's intervention slowed Saul's impulsive military plan, introducing the possibility of divine guidance into human strategy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does impulsive religious activity differ from genuine God-seeking?
2. What is the value of spiritual counsel that slows hasty decisions?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמְרוּ	וְשָׂא וְלֵ	נִרְדָּה ה	אַחֲרָי	פְּלִשְׁתֵּי יָם	לַיְלָה
of them And they said	And Saul	Let us go down	after	the Philistines	by night
H559	H7586	H3381	H310	H6430	H3915

וְנִבְּזָה	בְּקֶם מִן	עַד	אִרְ	הַבֹּקֶר	וְלֵ
and spoil			light	them until the morning	
H962	H0	H5704	H216	H1242	H3808

וְנִשָּׂא ר	בָּהֶם	אִישׁ	וַיֹּאמְרוּ	כָּל	טוֹב
and let us not leave		a man	of them And they said		good
H7604	H0	H376	H559	H3605	H2896

בְּעֵינֵי יָד	עֲשֵׂה ה	וַיֹּאמְרוּ	הַכֹּהֵן	נִקְרָב ה
whatsoever seemeth	Do	of them And they said	the priest	Let us draw near
H5869	H6213	H559	H3548	H7126

אֶל	הָאֱלֹהִים:
hither	unto God
H413	H430

