

1 Samuel 14:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And between the passages, by which Jonathan sought to go over unto the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side: and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh.

Analysis

And between the passages, by which Jonathan sought to go over unto the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side: and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh.

The detailed topography - 'a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side' named Bozez and Seneh - emphasizes the impossible terrain Jonathan must negotiate. The Hebrew shen ('tooth' or 'sharp rock') pictures jagged cliffs. This geographic specificity serves theological purposes: God receives glory because human capability cannot explain the victory. Faith confronts impossible circumstances directly rather than seeking easier alternatives. The named rocks become witnesses to divine deliverance.

Historical Context

The pass of Michmash was carved by the Wadi Suweinit, creating dramatic cliff faces. Archaeological surveys confirm this terrain matches the biblical description. The names Bozez ('shining') and Seneh ('thorny') may describe physical characteristics of the rock formations.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why does Scripture sometimes provide detailed descriptions of impossible obstacles before deliverance?
2. How do 'named witnesses' in your life testify to God's power over impossible situations?

Interlinear Text

לְעֹבֵר יְוָנָתָן בְּקַשׁ אֲשֶׁר וְתַּפְעַל וּבֵין
H996 And between the passages H4569 H834 sought H1245 by which Jonathan H3129 to go over H5674

מִן הַמִּקְעֵד בְּרֵאשִׁית יָמִין פְּלִשְׁתִּים וְשָׁן לְעֹלָה בְּרֵכָה לְעֹלָה
H5921 garrison unto the Philistines and a sharp rock on the one side H2088 H4673 H6430 H8127 H5553 H5676 H2088

וְשָׁם וְשָׁן בְּרֵכָה לְעֹלָה מִן הַמִּקְעֵד בְּרֵאשִׁית יָמִין
and a sharp rock on the one side H2088 and the name of the one H8034 H259 H8127 H5553 H5676 H5573

בָּזֶז וְשָׁם וְשָׁם וְשָׁם סְנֵה
was Bozez and the name of the one Seneh H949 H8034 H259 H5573

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 13:23 (Parallel theme): And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.

