

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

וְבֵין	הַמַּעְבָּר וְהַ	בִּקְשָׁה	וְיֹנָתָן	לְעָבֵר	
H996	And between the passages	H834	sought	by which Jonathan	to go over
	H4569		H1245	H3129	H5674
עַל	מַצֵּב	פְּלִשְׁתִּים	וְשֵׁן	הָסֶלֶעַ	מִזֵּה
H5921	garrison	unto the Philistines	and a sharp	rock	on the one side
	H4673	H6430	H8127	H5553	H5676
וְשֵׁן	הָסֶלֶעַ	מִזֵּה	וְשֵׁם	הָאֶחָד	
and a sharp	rock	on the one side	and the name	of the one	
H8127	H5553	H5676	H8034	H259	
בּוֹזֵז	וְשֵׁם	הָאֶחָד	סֵנָה:		
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.

