

1 Samuel 14:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said he unto all Israel, Be ye on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side. And the people said unto Saul, Do what seemeth good unto thee.

Analysis

Then said he unto all Israel, Be ye on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side. And the people said unto Saul, Do what seemeth good unto thee.

Saul's division of the assembly - 'Be ye on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side' - places himself and Jonathan together, opposite Israel. This arrangement suggests Saul considers royal house more likely innocent than the general population. The people's response 'Do what seemeth good unto thee' reflects resignation rather than enthusiasm. They comply but do not affirm. The process moves toward tragedy with a sense of inevitability.

Historical Context

Lot-casting typically narrowed from larger to smaller groups. Saul's arrangement assumed the sin was more likely among commoners than in the royal family. This assumption proved wrong, intensifying the irony of the situation.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do assumptions about who is guilty affect how we investigate problems?
2. What does the people's passive compliance suggest about their relationship with Saul?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר ו	אֶל	כָּל	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	אַתֶּם	תְּהִיו	לְעַבְדִּי	אַתְּ ד
Then said	H413	H3605	he unto all Israel	H859	H1961	side	Be ye on one
H559			H3478			H5676	H259
וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו
H589	and I and Jonathan	my son	H1961	side	Be ye on one	Then said	
	H3129	H1121		H5676	H259	H559	
וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	וַיֹּאמֶר ו
And the people	H413	unto Saul	good	what seemeth	Do		
H5971		H7586	H2896	H5869	H6213		

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