

1 Samuel 14:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore Saul said unto the LORD God of Israel, Give a perfect lot. And Saul and Jonathan were taken: but the people escaped.

Analysis

Therefore Saul said unto the LORD God of Israel, Give a perfect lot. And Saul and Jonathan were taken: but the people escaped.

Saul's prayer for 'a perfect lot' (thummim, connected to the Urim and Thummim) requests divine identification of the guilty party. The lot eliminates the people and 'Saul and Jonathan were taken.' God's answer implicates the royal house. The very oracle Saul sought reveals his own son as the oath-breaker. Divine guidance, properly sought, often reveals uncomfortable truths. Saul receives accurate answer to his question but remains blind to the underlying issue - his rash oath.

Historical Context

The Urim and Thummim were priestly objects used for obtaining divine guidance. The mechanism apparently allowed three outcomes: Urim (no), Thummim (yes), or neither (no answer). Saul's request for 'perfect lot' sought clear divine communication.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does seeking divine guidance sometimes reveal truths we did not want to find?
2. What happens when proper procedure produces painful results?

Interlinear Text

בָּהּ יִשְׁרָאֵל אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל וַיֹּאמֶר
said Therefore Saul unto the LORD God of Israel Give
H559 H7586 H413 H3068 H430 H3478 H3051

צְאָה וַיַּעֲמֹד יְהוָה וַיְלַכֵּד יְהוָה וַיְלַכֵּד יְהוָה וַיְלַכֵּד
a perfect were taken and Jonathan Therefore Saul but the people escaped
H8549 H3920 H3129 H7586 H5971 H3318

Additional Cross-References

Acts 1:24 (References Lord): And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

Proverbs 16:33 (References Lord): The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.

Jonah 1:7 (Parallel theme): And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.