

# 1 Samuel 14:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan.

## Analysis

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**And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan.**

Saul's verdict - 'God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan' - invokes divine sanction for executing his own son. The oath formula 'God do so and more also' was a self-curse promising divine punishment if the speaker failed to fulfill his vow. Saul compounds original folly with judicial murder. He will execute the battle's hero for eating honey he did not know was forbidden. Religious scrupulosity reaches its absurd extreme: killing the faithful to maintain the form of faithfulness.

## Historical Context

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The oath formula was a serious self-imprecation. Saul essentially says, 'May God punish me if I do not execute Jonathan.' Ancient Near Eastern kings were bound by their oaths; failure to enforce them brought divine displeasure. Saul is trapped by his own words.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

2