

1 Samuel 14:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Saul went up from following the Philistines: and the Philistines went to their own place.

Analysis

Then Saul went up from following the Philistines: and the Philistines went to their own place.

The anticlimactic conclusion - 'Then Saul went up from following the Philistines: and the Philistines went to their own place' - reveals the cost of the day's chaos. Despite God's great deliverance through Jonathan, the complete destruction of Philistine power that Jonathan envisioned (verse 30) never occurs. Saul's oath, the controversy over Jonathan, and the day's confusion allow the enemy to escape. Victory is incomplete because leadership failure limited what divine power initiated. The Philistines remain to fight another day.

Historical Context

The Philistines' survival meant continued military pressure throughout Saul's reign (verse 52). This battle, despite its miraculous beginning, did not achieve decisive victory. The Philistine threat would not be fully addressed until David's reign.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does leadership failure limit what God begins through faithful individuals?
2. What victories remain incomplete because of human interference with divine work?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַל	שָׁא וּל	מֵאַחֲרַי	וּפְלִשְׁתֵּי יָם	וּפְלִשְׁתֵּי יָם	הָלַךְ וְ
went up	Then Saul	from following	and the Philistines	and the Philistines	went
H5927	H7586	H310	H6430	H6430	H1980

לְמִקְוָתָם:
to their own place
H4725