

# 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

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**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

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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

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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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

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בָּלָכְ וְ אֶפְלַשְׂתִּים

went up Then Saul from following and the Philistines and the Philistines went

H5927

H7586

H310

H6430

H6430

H1980

לְמִקְוֹמָם:

to their own place

H4725

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