

1 Samuel 14:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed them.

Analysis

So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed them.

The summary of Saul's military campaigns - against Moab, Ammon, Edom, Zobah, the Philistines, and Amalek - demonstrates his general effectiveness as a warrior king. The phrase 'took the kingdom over Israel' suggests his reign brought order after the judges' chaos. His ability to 'vex' (yarsha, 'condemn' or 'treat as guilty') his enemies indicates military success. Yet this summary follows immediately after failure, creating tension between public achievement and private dysfunction.

Historical Context

The list of enemies represents threats from every direction: Moab and Ammon to the east, Edom to the south, Zobah (Aramean kingdom) to the north, Philistines to the west, and Amalek to the south. Saul's military successes secured Israel's borders during his reign.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Can outward success coexist with inward failure?
2. How should we evaluate leaders who achieve results while demonstrating character flaws?

Interlinear Text

סָב יבֹּן	וְלָחָם	יִשְׂרָאֵל	עַל	הַמְּלוּכָה	לָךְ דָּ	וְשָׂא וּלְ
		over Israel		the kingdom	took	So Saul
		H3478		H4410	H3920	H7586
עַם וִן	וּבְנֵי	בְּמוֹאָב בִּן	אֹיְבֵי יוֹ	בְּכָל		
of Ammon	and against the children	against Moab	against all his enemies			
H5983	H1121	H4124	H341			
וּבְפִלִּשְׁתִּים	צוֹבָה	וּבַמְּלָכִים	וּבְאֶדֹם			
and against the Philistines	of Zobah	and against the kings	and against Edom			
H6430	H6678	H4428	H123			
יָרָשִׁיעַ:	יָפָן הָ	אֲשֶׁר	וּבְכָל לְ			
himself he vexed	and whithersoever he turned					
H7561	H6437					

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 10:6 (Kingdom): And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ish-tob twelve thousand men.

1 Samuel 14:52 (Parallel theme): And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.

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