

1 Samuel 14:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The forefront of the one was situate northward over against Michmash, and the other southward over against Gibeah.

Analysis

The forefront of the one was situate northward over against Michmash, and the other southward over against Gibeah.

The orientation of the crags - 'northward over against Michmash' and 'southward over against Gibeah' - positions them as barriers between the Israelite camp and the Philistine garrison. Jonathan must traverse this obstacle course while exposed to enemy observation and attack from above. The geographical detail invites readers to visualize the danger: climbing steep cliffs under potential attack with only two men against an entire garrison. Human calculation would forbid such an attempt.

Historical Context

The north-south orientation of the crags created a natural defensive barrier the Philistines exploited. Their garrison position 'over against Michmash' gave them the high ground advantage essential in ancient warfare. Jonathan's approach required climbing directly toward armed enemies on superior terrain.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What impossible obstacles has God called you to face directly rather than circumvent?
2. How does detailed awareness of dangers sometimes strengthen rather than weaken faith?

Interlinear Text

הַיִּשׁוֹן	וְהָאַחֵר	מָצָא וְיָקִין	מִצָּפֹן	מֵעַל	מִיְּמִינֵהוּ
The forefront	and the other	was situate	northward	over against	Michmash
H8127	H259	H4690	H6828	H4136	H4363
וְהָאַחֵר	מִן הַיָּבֵי	מֵעַל	גִּבְעָה:		
and the other	southward	over against	Gibeah		
H259	H5045	H4136	H1387		

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