

1 Samuel 14:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

The chapter's final verse - 'there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul' - provides sober summary. Despite the day's victory, Philistine pressure continued throughout Saul's reign. The note that Saul recruited 'any strong man, or any valiant man' for his army shows ongoing military need. The Hebrew *chazaq* ('strong') and *ben-chayil* ('valiant' or 'capable') indicate continuous search for capable warriors. Saul's reign was defined by unending conflict.

Historical Context

The Philistine threat was never fully resolved under Saul. His final battle at Mount Gilboa (1 Samuel 31) ended in catastrophic defeat. David would eventually break Philistine power (2 Samuel 5:17-25; 8:1), accomplishing what Saul could not.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the unresolved Philistine conflict suggest about Saul's reign overall?
2. How does incomplete victory characterize leadership that begins with promise but loses divine favor?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי י	הַמִּלְחָמָה	הַיָּזָק הַ	עַל	פְּלִשְׁתִּים	כָּל
H1961	war H4421	And there was sore H2389	H5921	against the Philistines H6430	H3605
יְמֵי	וְשָׂא וְלֹ	וַיֵּרָא הַ	וְשָׂא וְלֹ	כָּל	אִישׁ
all the days H3117	and when Saul H7586	saw H7200	and when Saul H7586	H3605	man H376
וְכָל	בֶּן	חַיִּל	וַיֹּסֶף הוּא	אֵלָיו:	
H3605	man H1121	or any valiant H2428	he took H622	H413	

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 8:11 (Parallel theme): And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.