

# 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

---

כ	ל	פְּלִשְׁתִּים	עַל	מִזְבֵּחַ	בְּמִלְחָמָה	וְתַּחַת	וְ	י
H1961		war		And there was sore	H5921		against the Philistines	H3605
		H4421		H2389			H6430	
גָּבֹר	אִישׁ	כָּל	שָׁא וָל	וְרָא הָ	שָׁא וָל	וְרָא הָ	יְמִ	יְמִ
all the days	and when Saul	saw	and when Saul	H3605	man	any strong		
H3117	H7586	H7200	H7586	H3605	H376	H1368		
אִישׁ	תָּאַסֵּף	הָ	מִל	אִישׁ				
man	or any valiant	he took		H413				
H3605	H1121	H2428	H622					

## 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.

---