

1 Samuel 14:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour,
Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these
uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for
there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

Analysis

And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

Jonathan's statement to his armor-bearer contains profound theology: 'it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.' The phrase 'it may be' (ulai) acknowledges uncertainty about outcome while maintaining confidence in God's power. The principle 'no restraint to the LORD' (ein la-Yahweh ma'tsor) affirms divine sovereignty over all circumstances. Jonathan's reference to the Philistines as 'uncircumcised' identifies them as covenant outsiders opposing covenant God.

Historical Context

The theological principle that God saves equally by many or few echoes Gideon's reduced army (Judges 7) and David's later confrontation with Goliath. Circumcision marked covenant membership; calling Philistines 'uncircumcised' emphasized their status as enemies of Yahweh.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does 'it may be' faith differ from presumption or doubt?
2. What impossible situations in your life need the reminder that God is not restrained by numbers or resources?

Interlinear Text

לָכֶּה כֹּל יוֹדֵשׁ אֶת הַנָּעַר אֲמָר
said And Jonathan H413 to the young man that bare his armour H1980
H559 H3083 H5288 H5375 H3627

וְנִעְבְּרָה אֶל מַצֵּב הָעִרְלִים הָאֵלֶּה
and let us go over H413 unto the garrison of these uncircumcised H428
H5674 H4673 H6189

אֵין כִּי לֹא לַיהוָה יַעֲשֶׂה אוֹל
H194 will work it may be that the LORD H0 H3588 H369
H6213 H3068

אִם רַב לְהוֹשִׁיעַ מַעַצ וְלַיהוָה
it may be that the LORD for us for there is no restraint to save by many H176
H3068 H4622 H3467 H7227

בְּמִעוֹת:
or by few
H4592

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 19:26 (Parallel theme): But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Romans 8:31 (Parallel theme): What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Zechariah 4:6 (References Lord): Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Deuteronomy 32:30 (References Lord): How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

2 Chronicles 14:11 (References Lord): And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.

Jeremiah 9:26 (Parallel theme): Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.

2 Samuel 16:12 (References Lord): It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.