

1 Samuel 14:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over unto these men, and we will discover ourselves unto them.

Analysis

Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over unto these men, and we will discover ourselves unto them.

Jonathan proposes a sign (ot) to determine God's will: they will reveal themselves to the Philistines and interpret their response as divine guidance. This seeking of confirmation demonstrates that faith ventures should not proceed on mere impulse but seek God's direction. Jonathan's plan combines bold initiative with humble dependence on divine guidance. The willingness to 'discover ourselves unto them' accepts vulnerability as part of the faith test.

Historical Context

Seeking signs for divine guidance was common in ancient Israel (Judges 6:36-40; 1 Samuel 6:7-9). Jonathan's proposed sign differs from demanding God prove Himself; instead, it seeks discernment for a course of action already motivated by faith.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you seek divine confirmation for faith initiatives?
2. What is the difference between testing God and seeking His guidance?

Interlinear Text

אָל	עֲבֹר יִם	אֲנִי חֲנוּ הִנֵּה ה' וְנֹתָן יְיָ אֶמֶר
Behold we will pass over		Then said Jonathan
H413	H5674	H2009 H587 H559 H3083
אֵלֵיהֶם:	וְנִגְלֵ יָנוּ	הָאֲנָשִׁים יִם
	and we will discover	unto these men
H413	H1540	H582