

1 Samuel 14:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them.

Analysis

If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them.

The first possible response - 'Tarry until we come to you' - would indicate waiting, not advancing. Jonathan interprets this as a sign to 'stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them.' The Hebrew *amad* ('stand still') suggests maintaining position without retreat but without advance. Jonathan builds flexibility into his sign-seeking: he is willing to accept either outcome as God's direction. True faith submits to divine guidance rather than manipulating signs to confirm predetermined desires.

Historical Context

The Philistines' response 'Tarry until we come to you' would represent a typical defensive challenge - maintaining position while sending troops to investigate. This would give Philistines time to organize a proper response to the intruders.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when God's guidance indicates waiting rather than advancing?
2. What makes 'standing still' an act of faith rather than passivity?

Interlinear Text

אִם כֹּה יֹאמְרוּ אֵלַי יְמוּד הִגִּיעַ נֹעַד
H518 H3541 **If they say** H413 **thus unto us Tarry** H5704 **until we come**
H559 H1826 H5060

אֵלַיְכֶם וְעַמְּךָ יִנָּחַם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ
H413 **to you then we will stand still** H8478 H3808
H5975

וְעַל הַמָּקוֹם אֲלֵיהֶם
in our place and will not go up H413
H5927