

# 1 Samuel 17:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

## Analysis

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**When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.**

The phrase 'dismayed and greatly afraid' (wayyechatu wayyir'u) combines panic with profound fear. Saul and all Israel's terror revealed their spiritual condition: they saw Goliath but not the God of Israel. The man chosen for his height now proved as helpless as his subjects against a taller opponent. Faith's failure began in the king and infected the entire army.

## Historical Context

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Saul's military record included victories over Ammonites, Philistines, and Amalekites (1 Samuel 11, 14, 15). Yet this previous courage had depended on sporadic Spirit-empowerment now withdrawn. The professional army's paralysis demonstrated that military training cannot substitute for faith.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does fear spread from leaders to followers in spiritual communities?
2. What circumstances reveal the limits of natural courage without faith?

## Interlinear Text

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וַשְׁמָע	שָׁאוּל	וְכָל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶת	דְּבָרָיו	הַפְּלִשְׁתִּים
heard	When Saul	H3605	and all Israel	H853	those words	of the Philistine
H8085	H7586		H3478		H1697	H6430
הָיָא לָהּ	וַיִּהְיוּ	וַיִּירָאוּ	מְאֹד:			
H428	they were dismayed	afraid	and greatly			
	H2865	H3372	H3966			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 31:8** (Parallel theme): And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

**Joshua 1:9** (Parallel theme): Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.