

# 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 Yet this previous courage had depended on sporadic Spirit-empowerment now withdrawn.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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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## 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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يָشָׁם	عַ	שָׁאֹل	וְ	يָשָׁאָל	לְ	يָשָׁאָל	אֶת	דְּבָרִים	דְּבָרִים	הַפְּלִשְׁתִּים
heard	When Saul	H3605	and all Israel	H853	those words	of the Philistines				
H8085	H7586		H3478	H1697	H6430					
בָּא	לָהּ		יִרְאָה	מִאָּדָם						
H428	they were dismayed	H2865	afraid	H3372	and greatly	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.