

1 Samuel 29:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So David and his men rose up early to depart in the morning, to return into the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

Analysis

The chapter's conclusion, noting David's early departure and the Philistines' advance to Jezreel, sets the stage for simultaneous narratives: David returning to Ziklag and the Philistines marching to battle. The separation of these storylines creates dramatic tension. While David travels south, the battle that will change Israel's history proceeds north. Divine providence has extracted David from the conflict that will kill Saul and Jonathan, preserving him for the throne while removing the barriers to his succession.

Historical Context

The three-day journey from Aphek to Ziklag would have David arriving approximately when the battle at Gilboa occurred. The geographic and temporal separation meant David was clearly absent from both armies during the decisive confrontation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's timing in one area of life connect to developments in others?
2. What does David's absence from the battle suggest about God's preparation of future leaders?

Interlinear Text

אֶל	H413	into the land	וּפְלִשְׁתִּים	וּפְלִשְׁתִּים	וּפְלִשְׁתִּים	עַל	יְזְרָעָל:
	H776	And the Philistines		And the Philistines		went up	to Jezreel

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