

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

וַיָּשָׁם	דָּוִד	וְהָיָה	וְאֶנְשָׁיו	לְלַחֵם	בַּבֹּקֶר	לָשׁוּב
rose up early	So David	H1931	and his men	H1980	in the morning	to return
H7925	H1732		H582		H1242	H7725
אֶל	אֶרֶץ	וּפְלִשְׁתִּים	וּפְלִשְׁתִּים	עָלָה	יֶזְרְעֵאל:	
H413	into the land	And the Philistines	And the Philistines	went up	to Jezreel	
	H776	H6430	H6430	H5927	H3157	

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