

1 Samuel 30:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.

Analysis

The division of forces, four hundred pursuing while two hundred remain, raises questions David will address later. The Hebrew 'piggeru' (too faint, exhausted) describes men beyond physical capacity to continue. The three-day return march from Aphek plus emotional devastation had depleted these men completely. David neither condemns their weakness nor delays the pursuit; he assigns them guard duty and proceeds. Leadership requires accepting varied capacity while maintaining mission focus.

Historical Context

Ancient military expeditions regularly left portions of forces to guard supplies and establish fallback positions. The two hundred men at Besor served a legitimate military function despite their exhaustion.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you handle varying capacities within your group or team?
2. What balance exists between compassion for weakness and mission requirements?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲמֹד אִישׁ מֵאַת יְמִינֵי דָּוִיד הַיְמִינָה וַיַּעֲמֹד
pursued But David H1931 he and four for two hundred men abode behind
H7291 H1732 H702 H3967 H376 H5975

רַגְבָּר אֲשֶׁר אִישׁ מֵאַת יְמִינֵי דָּוִיד
for two hundred men H834 which were so faint that they could not go over
H3967 H376 H6296 H5674

בְּבֵשֶׁר אֲתָה בְּמַלְכֵי
the brook Besor
H853 H5158 H1308

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 30:21 (References David): And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that were with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them.