1 Samuel 30:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah.

Analysis

The Egyptian guides David to a scene of overconfident celebration: the Amalekites 'spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing.' The Hebrew 'chogegim' (celebrating, making festival) suggests religious feasting, possibly thanking their gods for successful plunder. Their security 'because of all the great spoil' creates vulnerability. The victory celebration becomes the context for their defeat. God uses their moment of greatest confidence as the occasion for their destruction.

Historical Context

Post-raid celebrations were common in ancient cultures, serving both religious (thanksgiving to gods) and social (distributing spoils) functions. Such celebrations also created military vulnerability through distraction and inebriation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does overconfidence following success create vulnerability?
2. What does the timing of the Amalekites' celebration teach about premature triumph?

Interlinear Text

עַל	נְטֻשִׁים	וְהִנֵּה	וַיֹּרִדֵהוּ
H5921	**behold they were spread abroad**	H2009	**And when he had brought him down**
	behold they were spread abroad		H3381

H5203

בְּכֹל	וְחֹגְגִים	וְשֹׁתִים	אֹכְלִים	וּמֵאֶרֶץ	כָּל	פְּנֵי
H3605	**and dancing**	**and drinking**	**eating**	**and out of the land**	H3605	**upon all**
	H2287	H8354	H398	H776		H6440

הַשָּׁלָל	הַגָּדוֹל	אֲשֶׁר	לָקְחוּ	וּמֵאֶרֶץ
spoil	**because of all the great**	H834	**that they had taken**	**and out of the land**
H7998	H1419		H3947	H776

פְּלִשְׁתִּים	וּמֵאֶרֶץ	יְהוּדָה:
of the Philistines	**and out of the land**	**of Judah**
H6430	H776	H3063