

1 Samuel 31:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul;

Analysis

The transition to Jabesh-gilead's inhabitants hearing the news recalls Saul's first act as king: rescuing them from Nahash the Ammonite (chapter 11). Their response to Saul's dishonor repays his earlier deliverance with later loyalty. The Hebrew 'wayyishme'u' (they heard) indicates news traveled across the Jordan. Gratitude remembered across decades motivates their risky intervention. Their courage contrasts with others who fled.

Historical Context

Jabesh-gilead's rescue by Saul forty years earlier created a debt of honor the city now repays. The transjordan location meant they had to cross the Jordan and penetrate Philistine-held territory to reach Beth-shan.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does gratitude motivate action even at personal risk?
2. What debts of honor do you owe to those who helped you in the past?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁמָע וְ	אֵל יוֹ	יָשֶׁב י	יָבִישׁ	גִּלְעָד	אֵת
heard	H413	And when the inhabitants	of Jabeshgilead	H1568	H853
H8085		H3427	H3003		
אֲשֶׁר	עָשָׂה וְ	פְּלִשְׁתֵּי יָם	לְשָׁאוּל:		
H834	had done	of that which the Philistines	to Saul		
	H6213	H6430	H7586		

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org