

1 Samuel 4:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.

Analysis

The woman's final words repeat and expand her theological interpretation: 'The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.' Her equation of the Ark's loss with glory's departure shows sophisticated understanding. She says nothing of her dead husband or father-in-law in her dying breath - only of God's glory. This nameless woman provides the theological summary of the entire disaster. Her insight exceeds that of priests, elders, and soldiers. God often reveals truth to the unexpected.

Historical Context

The phrase 'glory is departed' (galah kabod) could also be translated 'glory is exiled,' using language later applied to Israel's exile to Babylon. This linguistic link connects the Ark's capture to later national catastrophes.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why does the narrator give this unnamed woman the final theological word on the disaster?
2. What does her focus on God's glory rather than personal loss model for believers?

Interlinear Text

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|---|----------------------|-----------|-------------|-------|----------|-------------|------|
| אָרָ וְיַלְקֹעַ כִּי מִשְׁבָּא לְכָבָד גָּלַה יְתַתְּ אָמָר | for the ark is taken | is taken | for the ark | | | | |
| And she said | is departed | The glory | from Israel | H3588 | is taken | for the ark | |
| H559 | H1540 | H3519 | H3478 | | H3947 | | H727 |
| of God | | | | | | | |
| H430 | | | | | | | |

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