

1 Samuel 4:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.

Analysis

Israel's response to the Ark's arrival - shouting so the 'earth rang again' - reflects confident expectation of victory. The Hebrew shout (teru'ah) typically accompanies military action and worship. Their enthusiasm is genuine but misplaced. They trust the Ark's presence without examining their hearts or the condition of their leadership. The shout echoes earlier victory celebrations (Joshua 6:5, 20) but will be followed not by enemy walls falling but by Israelite soldiers falling. False confidence born of religious presumption leads to devastating disappointment.

Historical Context

The war cry (teru'ah) appears in contexts of worship and battle throughout the Old Testament. Its intensity here ('the earth rang again') demonstrates the height of Israel's confidence, making the subsequent defeat even more catastrophic.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does religious enthusiasm without spiritual reality lead to disappointment?
2. What is the difference between genuine faith and presumptuous confidence?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה י	כָּבֹא	אָרֹן	בְּרִית	יְהוָה	אֵל	
H1961	came	And when the ark	of the covenant	of the LORD	H413	
	H935	H727	H1285	H3068		
הַמַּחֲנֶה	וַיִּשָּׁע	כָּל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	תְּרוּעָה	גְּדוֹלָה	וַיִּתֵּן
into the camp	shouted	H3605	all Israel	shout	with a great	rang again
H4264	H7321		H3478	H8643	H1419	H1949
הָאָרֶץ:						
so that the earth						
H776						

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 6:5 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.