

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

אָל יְהוָה כִּי וְאָרֶן בְּרִית
H1961 came And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD H413
H935 H727 H1285 H3068

וַיַּתֵּה מְגֹדֵל תְּרוֹעַת הַקְרָבָה כֹּל שְׁבָא לְכָל עַם
into the camp shouted all Israel shout with a great rang again
H4264 H7321 H3605 H3478 H8643 H1419 H1949

פֶּאָרֶץ:
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.