

# 1 Samuel 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore.

## Analysis

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Philistine fear intensifies: 'Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore.' Their alarm reflects awareness that this battle differs from ordinary conflicts. The statement 'God is come into the camp' uses singular for 'God,' acknowledging Yahweh's singular power. Yet their fear, though appropriate, will not prevent victory because Israel's God is fighting against, not for, His own people. The Philistines face the true God but prevail because that God has purposed judgment on corrupted Israel.

## Historical Context

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The Philistines' experience of Israel to this point had included some defeats, but the Ark had not previously been brought to battle against them. Their fear reflects awareness that this represents escalation.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

1. How does Philistine fear of God contrast with Israel's presumptuous confidence?
2. When might enemies of God's people be more spiritually perceptive than God's people?

## Interlinear Text

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