

1 Samuel 7:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.

Analysis

And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.

The timing is dramatic: while smoke ascended from Samuel's sacrifice, Philistine forces advanced for battle, and Yahweh intervened with thunderous power. The Hebrew 'ra'am' (thundered) describes both the sound and the divine presence within the storm (Psalm 18:13; 29:3). God's 'great thunder' ('qol gadol') was His battle cry against Israel's enemies. The term 'discomfited' ('hamam') means to throw into confusion, panic, or rout - the same word describing Egypt's army at the Red Sea (Exodus 14:24). Divine terror shattered Philistine confidence and coordination. The phrase 'smitten before Israel' indicates defeat, though Israel's role was pursuit rather than initial combat. God fought for His people while they worshiped. This pattern - worship preceding victory, sacrifice enabling deliverance - permeates biblical theology.

Historical Context

Theophanic storm language appears throughout Scripture as divine warrior imagery (Judges 5:4-5; Psalm 18:7-15; 68:7-8). Weather played significant military roles in ancient warfare; sudden storms could disable chariots and disorganize infantry. The Philistines, having witnessed the Ark's power, now experienced Yahweh's direct intervention.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does God's timing - intervening while sacrifice was being offered - teach about worship and spiritual warfare?
2. How does this divine warrior imagery shape your understanding of God's active involvement in human conflicts?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּהָיֹוֹה	שָׁמוּאֵל	מֵעֹלָה	הָעֹלָה	פְּלִשְׁתִּים	נִגַּשׁ וְ
H1961	And as Samuel	was offering up	the burnt offering	the Philistines	drew near
	H8050	H5927	H5930	H6430	H5066
לְמַלְחָמָה	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	וַיִּרְעַם	יְהוָה הוּא	בְּקוֹל	גָּדוֹל
to battle	Israel	thundered	but the LORD	thunder	with a great
H4421	H3478	H7481	H3068	H6963	H1419
בַּיּוֹם	הַהוּא	עַל	פְּלִשְׁתִּים	וַיִּהְיֶה	
on that day	H1931	H5921	the Philistines	and discomfited	
H3117			H6430	H2000	
וַיִּנָּפְּצוּ	יִשְׂרָאֵל:	לִפְנֵי			
them and they were smitten	before	Israel			
H5062	H6440	H3478			

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 2:10 (References Lord): The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

Joshua 10:10 (References Lord): And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Beth-horon, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.

1 Samuel 12:17 (References Lord): Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

Judges 5:20 (Parallel theme): They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.

Zechariah 4:6 (References Lord): Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org