

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

נָגַשׁ	וְ	פָּلָשָׁתִים	בְּעֹלֶל	הַשְׁמֹאָל	מִעַל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	וְיָהּ	וְ
H1961	And as Samuel	was offering up	the burnt offering	the Philistines	drew near			
	H8050	H5927	H5930	H6430	H5066			
לְמַלְחֵם	הָיָה	יְהִי	הָיָה	יְרַעַם	מִשְׁרָאֵל	וְיָרַע	בְּקָרֶל	וְזֹלֵל
to battle	Israel	thundered	but the LORD	thunder	with a great			
H4421	H3478	H7481	H3068	H6963	H1419			
וְ	בְּ	עַל	בָּהּ	וְ	פָּלָשָׁתִים	מִ	וְ	וְ
on that day		H1931	H5921	the Philistines	and discomfited	H2000		
H3117								
וְ	בְּ	לְפָנֵי	וְ	יְשָׁרָאֵל	לְפָנֵי	וְ	תְּבַנֵּג	וְ
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.

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