

Judges 20:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the children of Israel rose up in the morning, and encamped against Gibeah.

Analysis

The children of Israel rose up in the morning, and encamped against Gibeah (וַיָּקוּמוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בַּבֹּקֶר, vayaqumu benei-yisra'el baboqer)—Israel rises early, demonstrating military discipline and eagerness to execute the battle plan authorized by God. **Encamped against Gibeah** (וַיַּחֲנוּ עַל־הַגִּבְעָה, vayachanu al-hagibeah)—they establish their siege position facing the fortified town.

This verse represents the moment of obedient action following divine promise. After proper seeking (vv. 26-28) yielded God's explicit assurance 'tomorrow I will deliver them into thine hand' (v. 28), Israel now moves with confidence rooted in divine word rather than presumptuous self-reliance. The 'rising up in the morning' suggests alacrity born of faith—they don't delay or second-guess God's promise but move immediately to position. This contrasts with their earlier campaigns (vv. 19-20, 22-24) where they advanced with religious procedure but without explicit divine promise. The difference between presumptuous religious activity and faithful obedience lies not in outward actions but in whether those actions flow from complete submission to God's revealed will. When God explicitly promises victory, prompt obedience demonstrates faith; when we haven't received such promise, identical actions may reveal presumption.

Historical Context

Morning attacks were common in ancient warfare, allowing full daylight for battle operations. The encampment 'against Gibeah' positioned Israel's 400,000-man

force to execute the ambush strategy (v. 29) that would draw Benjamin out of their fortified position. This represented the turning point where Israel's superior numbers, combined with God's promised blessing and wise strategy, would finally prevail.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does faithful obedience following God's explicit promise differ from presumptuous activity lacking divine authorization?
2. What does it mean to move with alacrity when God has clearly spoken versus hesitation when you're unsure of His will?
3. How do you distinguish between confidence rooted in divine promise and presumption rooted in religious activity?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּקֶם וַיִּמּוֹ	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בַּבֹּקֶר	וַיִּחַן וַיִּשְׁכֹּן	עַל
rose up	And the children	of Israel	in the morning	and encamped	H5921
H6965	H1121	H3478	H1242	H2583	
הַגִּבְעָה:					
against Gibeah					
H1390					
