

Judges 7:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.

Analysis

The 300 maintained their positions: 'they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.' The Israelites didn't even need to fight—they simply stood with their torches and trumpets while the enemy self-destructed. The Midianite camp erupted in chaos—'ran, and cried, and fled'—describing panic-driven confusion. The threefold verbs emphasize the complete breakdown of order: running in fear, crying out in terror, fleeing in disorder. This was supernatural panic induced by God.

Historical Context

Military history records numerous instances of armies panicking and destroying themselves—the Syrians fleeing from phantom chariot sounds (2 Kings 7:6-7), the Philistines slaughtering each other when confused (1 Samuel 14:20), even the Canaanite forces at Sisera's defeat (Judges 4:15). Nighttime confusion, inability to distinguish friend from foe in darkness, and perception of overwhelming attack all contributed to catastrophic morale collapse. The Midianite coalition's multi-ethnic composition (Midianites, Amalekites, eastern peoples) complicated coordination during crisis.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the 300 merely standing in place while God wins the battle illustrate Exodus 14:13-14's command to 'stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD'?
2. What does the enemy's self-destruction teach about how God can turn enemies against themselves?
3. When has God fought your battles while you simply maintained faithful obedience to His commands?

Interlinear Text

וְעַמְדָה	אִישׁ	תָּמִיד	בָּיִת	סְבִיבָה	בְּפִלְגָה
And they stood	every man		H8478	in his place round about	and all the host
H5975	H376			H5439	H4264
רָא	עָז	בְּמִקְדָּשׁ	יָלִין	בְּלִישָׁה	
ran	H3605	and all the host	and cried	and fled	
H7323		H4264	H7321	H5127	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 28:1 (Parallel theme): The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.