

Judges 7:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

Analysis

After the 9,700 are sent home to their tents, the 300 retain the people's provisions and trumpets. This logistical detail is strategically significant—the 300 now possess food supplies for the entire original army and 300 trumpets (or potentially 10,000 if all were collected). The abundance of supplies and trumpets will enable the psychological warfare strategy revealed in verses 16-22. The statement 'the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley' emphasizes the tactical situation—Israel holds high ground with all necessary resources while the enemy camps below.

Historical Context

The trumpets (shopharot, שופרות) were ram's horn instruments used for signaling in warfare, worship, and civil administration. In battle, trumpet sounds coordinated troop movements, signaled attacks, and created psychological effects. The excessive number of trumpets for only 300 men sets up the deception strategy—the noise would suggest a much larger force. Ancient armies camped in valleys for water access and pasture for animals but sacrificed defensive advantages of high ground.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision of abundant resources after reduction demonstrate His sufficiency for His called servants?
2. What does retaining trumpets and provisions teach about God's strategic preparation before revealing His full plan?
3. How should Christians balance prudent resource management with radical dependence on God's miraculous provision?

Interlinear Text

שׁׁוֹפְּרִתִּיהָ מִ	אָתָּה תִּקְרַב	בְּיַד מִ	בְּיַד מִ	וְאֶת תִּקְרַב	וְאֶת תִּקְרַב	וְאֶת תִּקְרַב
took	H853	victuals	So the people	in their hand	H853	and their trumpets
H3947		H6720	H5971	H3027		H7782
לְאַפְלֵי	בְּאַשְׁר	שְׁלַח	בְּאַשְׁר	לְאַפְלֵי	בְּאַשְׁר	לְאַפְלֵי
all	the rest of Israel	and he sent	all	unto his tent		
H853	H3605	H376	H3478	H7971	H376	H168
בְּנֵי	מִדְיָן	וְמִצְרַיִם	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי
those three	hundred	all	and retained	and the host	of Midian	H1961
H7969	H3967	H376	H2388	H4264	H4080	
בְּאַמְלָקָן:						
מִתְּחִלָּה						
H0	H8478		was beneath him in the valley			
		H376	H6010			

