

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

שׁוֹפְרֹתֵיהֶם וְאֵת בְּיָדָם הָעָם צָדָה אֶת וִיקָח ו
took H853 victuals So the people in their hand H853 and their trumpets
H3947 H6720 H5971 H3027 H7782

לְאֶהֱלֵי יוֹשֵׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ וְשָׁלַח יְשׁוּבָאֵל הָאֵל יֵשׁ כָּל וְאֵת
H853 H3605 all the rest of Israel and he sent all unto his tent
H376 H3478 H7971 H376 H168

הָיָה מִדְּיָן וּמִחֹנֶה הַחֹזֵק יְקָ הָאֵל יֵשׁ מֵאֹת וּבָשָׁלֶשׁ
those three hundred all and retained and the host of Midian H1961
H7969 H3967 H376 H2388 H4264 H4080

בְּעֵמֶק: מִתַּחַת לּוֹ
H0 H8478 was beneath him in the valley
H6010

