

Jon poked the bear, Saul took credit, now overwhelming PI army against a fearful and fleeing Israel army of 600.

Three companies of Philistines 13:5,17 w/ 30,000 chariots (tanks) 6,000 horses (armored vehicles) and Israel battling w/ farming tools. Israel's army running, hiding though Philistines not attacking. **Lam 3:22 'It is of the Lord mercies that we are not consumed'** – Supernatural restraining of the enemy, God's mercy in spite of Saul's sin....maybe God honoring Jon.

*1 Now the day came that Jonathan, the son of Saul, said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come and let us cross over to the Philistines' garrison that is on yonder side." But he did not tell his father. 2 And Saul was staying in the outskirts of Gibeah under the pomegranate tree which is in Migron. And the people who were with him were about six hundred men, 3 and Ahijah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the priest of the LORD at Shiloh, was wearing an ephod. And the people did not know that Jonathan had gone. 4 And between the passes by which Jonathan sought to cross over to the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp crag on the one side, and a sharp crag on the other side, and the name of the one was Bozez (shinning) and the name of the other Seneh (thorn bush). 5 The one crag rose on the north opposite Michmash, and the other on the south opposite Geba. 6 Then Jonathan said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps the LORD will work for us, for the LORD is not restrained to save by many or by few." 7 And his armor bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart; turn yourself, and here I am with you according to your desire.*

God's invisible hand kept PI from attacking—6 day war; Yom Kippur war; God keeps church. Saul out of favor w/ God, expecting worst 13:13,14 running scared & people see it. Priest w/ Saul, religion, farther from God more religious a person gets. Contrast to Jon....God works in spite of Saul.

*God is able...deliver by many or few* a truth of God's omnipotence. God will use whatever & whoever is available to accomplish His will. Faith doesn't back down. But not by presumption, Jon moved by God faith is infectious.

Jon & armor bearer take a venture of faith. Not tell father (faith & no faith-discourage) Not us but God when we do. If willing to do His will He gives us the faith for it. Saul shaken, Jon is shaking the enemy

God plants His desire & will in us. *Andrew 5 loaves, 2 fish*. Greatest times in our life w/ God are the blessings He brings our way when we take ventures of faith (God confirms :6,7)—weather spontaneous-unplanned or planted in heart years before He brings it to pass (FM, school, Komo mai)

*8 Then Jonathan said, "Behold, we will cross over to the men and reveal ourselves to them. 9 "If they say to us, 'Wait until we come to you'; then we will stand in our place and not go up to them. 10 "But if they say, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up, for the LORD has given them into our hands; and this shall be the sign to us." 11 And when both of them revealed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines, the Philistines said, "Behold, Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden themselves." 12 So the men of the garrison hailed Jonathan and his armor bearer and said, "Come up to us and we will tell you something." And Jonathan said to his armor bearer, "Come up after me, for the LORD has given them into the hands of Israel."*

In the mouth of two witnesses a thing is established – Jon armor bearer validates, bears witness to the plan, which always increases faith, giving greater boldness to move forward. Notice it's all about the Lord :10,12 ***"Not to us oh Lord but to Thy name be the glory"***. Jon doesn't take honor to himself when he anticipates victory but to Israel. CC ventures of faith--there is always a high degree of success or failure.

*13 Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, with his armor bearer behind him; and they fell before Jonathan, and his armor bearer put some to death after him. 14 And that first slaughter which Jonathan and his armor bearer made was about twenty men within about half a furrow in an acre of land. 15 And there was a trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. Even the garrison and the raiders trembled, and the earth quaked so that it became a great trembling.*

Trembling God does toward Philistine army--supernatural in natural world event--put in hearts & by God caused earthquake. One is invisible the other visible.

There is always a greater reward of faith when obstacles are overwhelming. Faith doesn't look to human means for success but to God alone. God then brings human means to help accomplish His will.

*16 Now Saul's watchmen in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and behold, the multitude melted away; and they went here and there. 17 And Saul said to the people who were with him, "Number now and see who has gone from us." And when they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armor bearer were not there. 18 Then Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ark of God here." For the ark of God was at that time with the sons of Israel. 19 And it happened while Saul talked to the priest, that the commotion in the camp of the Philistines continued and increased; so Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand."*

Melting away lit *beating down one another*—God put fear & confusion in minds of the Philistines, *in-fighting*, they had all the physical armament but God caused them to turn on each other. *Heart of man deceitful*, proud, ego, jealous--starts & escalates until a brawl break out & army fighting itself.

Saul waiting for priest to ask God what to do; attack or not. But Saul too impatient, *never mind*, w/ draw hand. Saul's downfall 13:9 '*bring me offering*'. Priest taking too long so cancel, Saul will go it on his own.

*20 Then Saul and all the people who were with him rallied and came to the battle; and behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, and there was very great confusion. 21 Now the Hebrews who were with the Philistines previously, who went up with them all around in the camp, even they also turned to be with the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. 22 When all the men of Israel who had hidden themselves in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines had fled, even they also pursued them closely in the battle. 23 So the LORD delivered Israel that day, and the battle spread beyond Beth-aven.*

'*Ran to the battle*' seize opportunity w/o the Lord's go-ahead. Deserters and cave dwellers who hid out joined in battle as it progressed & at same time Saul becomes more & more irrational. He sees an easy target as the enemy is on the run so he goes after them.

No prayer, no counsel & no strategy. When we experience God moving & doing amazing things it doesn't make us **careless** in ventures of faith but more **cautious** knowing how easy it is to fail--so we are even more dependent on God. When we have too much to do, to busy to seek Him, no time for devotions, we put ourselves in precarious position. It is not a place we want to regularly be in. And if we only enter the battle when enemy is on the run it is questionable if we will have strength to stand when enemy comes w/ a heavy attack, strong temptations

*24 Now the men of Israel were hard-pressed on that day, for Saul had put the people under oath, saying, "Cursed be the man who eats food before evening, and until I have avenged myself on my enemies." So none of the people tasted food. 25 And all the people of the land entered the forest, and there was honey on the ground. 26 When the people entered the forest, behold, there was a flow of honey; but no man put his hand to his mouth, for the people feared the oath.*

Saul an incompetent king issues inept war strategy. To have bad leadership in times of crisis marks the downfall of a people. A self-serving command! To look good, authority that says 'I'm in power'. Worthless commander.

A **narcissist** one who has *excessive self admiration*. Jealous of Jon success & embarrassed by his own folly--he tries to win back credibility by doing something stupid in seeking retribution —**fast** (don't eat--strength depleted). *People tremble when a slave rules....Pr 30:21 Under three things the earth quakes, And under four, it cannot bear up: 22 Under a slave when he becomes king, And a fool when he is satisfied with food,*

A slavish leader will exercise control over people to where it makes no sense but they follow. *Anti-Christ will have world blindly follow him*. Saul's foolish oath is followed just so far until people revolt. But not always, **Holocaust**-leading sheep to slaughter. Jesus was led for us Is 53:7

*27 But Jonathan had not heard when his father put the people under oath; therefore, he put out the end of the staff that was in his hand and dipped it in the honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth, and his eyes brightened. 28 Then one of the people answered and said, "Your father strictly put the people under oath, saying, 'Cursed be the man who eats food today.'" And the people were weary. 29 Then Jonathan said, "My father has troubled the land. See now, how my eyes have brightened because I tasted a little of this honey. 30 "How much more, if only the people had eaten freely today of the spoil of their enemies which they found! For now the slaughter among the Philistines has not been great."*

Jon unaware of oath becomes guilty. He says what everyone was thinking **'this is a foolish oath'**. He is the only one willing to speak up w/ common sense. All others were censored in their own minds. **Stockholm syndrome-**

Those under extreme power imbalance have a psychological willingness to go along w/ the abuse of those in charge.

*31 And they struck among the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon. And the people were very weary. 32 And the people rushed greedily upon the spoil, and took sheep and oxen and calves, and slew them on the ground; and the people ate them with the blood. 33 Then they told Saul, saying, "Behold, the people are sinning against the LORD by eating with the blood." And he said, "You have acted treacherously; roll a great stone to me today." 34 And Saul said, "Disperse yourselves among the people and say to them, 'Each one of you bring me his ox or his sheep, and slaughter it here and eat; and do not sin against the LORD by eating with the blood.'" So all the people that night brought each one his ox with him, and slaughtered it there. 35 And Saul built an altar to the LORD; it was the first altar that he built to the LORD.*

The ban ended & now because of starvation the people break God's law of eating meat w/ blood. Saul pushed the people to the brink of **sinning against God** because of the foolish vow he made the people take for his own selfish interest.

Saul grieves over the people's sin but not over his own folly in driving them to it. A good leader always questions himself when making decisions & reflects on decisions made good or bad.

Altar for sin or victory? When a religious person leaves God they become more religious to compensate for guilt. A form of religion vs reality of relationship...*form of godliness but deny power*...pretense in long prayers....Athens 'see very religious...altar unknown god.

*36 Then Saul said, "Let us go down after the Philistines by night and take spoil among them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them." And they said, "Do whatever seems good to you." So the priest said, "Let us draw near to God here." 37 And Saul inquired of God, "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Wilt Thou give them into the hand of Israel?" But He did not answer him on that day. 38 And Saul said, "Draw near here, all you chiefs of the people, and investigate and see how this sin has happened today. 39 "For as the LORD lives, who delivers Israel, though it is in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die." But not one of all the people answered him.*

First Saul starves his army now he deprives them of sleep in order to attack at night. Those who only have self interest have no interest in others.

God didn't answer Saul's prayer. When that happens we need to look w/in not outside at others or whatever we think is going wrong when prayers are hindered. A selfish person sees faults of others but rarely sees them in themselves. *Is 59:1 Gods hand not short*

*40 Then he said to all Israel, "You shall be on one side and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side." And the people said to Saul, "Do what seems good to you." 41 Therefore, Saul said to the LORD, the God of Israel, "Give a perfect lot." And Jonathan and Saul were taken, but the people escaped. 42 And Saul said, "Cast lots between me and Jonathan my son." And Jonathan was taken. 43 Then Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done." So Jonathan told him and said, "I indeed tasted a little honey with the end of the staff that was in my hand. Here I am, I must die!" 44 And Saul said, "May God do this to me and more also, for you shall surely die, Jonathan." 45 But the people said to Saul, "Must Jonathan die, who has brought about this great deliverance in Israel? Far from it! As the LORD lives, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day." So the people rescued Jonathan and he did not die.*

Saul w/o natural affections 2Tim3:3; Rom1:31 willing to follow thru w/ foolish vow that he not lose face. Unwilling to acknowledge his own faulty strategy to beat the enemy—now sacrifice his son on the altar of his ego. Unwilling to see own sin, knit pick smallest error in others.

To ignore God's rule in our life we become intolerant of others who don't agree w/ us. Jon is defended by the people & oppose Saul to save Jon. If Saul gets his way w/o opposition he falls to depths of depravity...we will see.

*46 Then Saul went up from pursuing the Philistines, and the Philistines went to their own place. 47 Now when Saul had taken the kingdom over Israel, he fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, the sons of Ammon, Edom, the kings of Zobah, and the Philistines; and wherever he turned, he inflicted punishment. 48 And he acted valiantly and defeated the Amalekites, and delivered Israel from the hands of those who plundered them. 49 Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan and Ishvi and Malchi-shua; and the names of his two daughters were these: the name of the first-born Merab and the name of the younger Michal. 50 And the name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam the daughter of Ahimaaz. And the name of the captain of his army was Abner the son of Ner, Saul's uncle. 51 And Kish was the father of Saul, and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel. 52 Now the war against the Philistines was severe all the days of Saul; and when Saul saw any mighty man or any valiant man, he attached him to his staff.*

People are learning that having a king is not all it's cracked up to be. Enemy is not impressed or afraid. No matter how many impressive people you put on board for show....w/o God at the center of the kingdom and the life of the king there will be unending battles w/ strife & confusion in the nation and no lasting victory.