

- I) **V16-22 INTRO:** Now the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked and there was the
  - a) We have been studying Ezekiel on Wednesday nights, and a Scripture stood out
    - 1) Ezek 11:25 Ezekiel said: So I spoke to those in captivity of all the things the LORD had shown me
- II) **EZEKIEL:** Was entrusted with a message that was to be delivered to the Jews in Babylonian captivity
  - a) False teachers had arisen, delivering false messages that lead the people into idolatry
    - 1) False political leaders were also influencing them, so God gave a message to Ezekiel
    - 2) **HIS RESPONSIBILITY:** Was to deliver all the things that the Lord had shown him
- III) **THIS:** Is the heart of a teaching ministry
  - a) Deliver all that the Lord has given, so that those in captivity can be set free
    - 1) This is what equips people to deal with the issues that they deal with on a daily basis
    - 2) Ac 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.
    - 3) **THIS IS:** What we are doing as we go through 1 Samuel, looking for God's counsel
- IV) **AS WE HAVE SEEN:** Jonathan, Saul's son is a warrior and has been battling Philistines
  - a) He had already attacked a garrison of Philistine's, and had stirred up a hornet's nest
    - 1) After he had attacked them, they gathered thousands of chariots, horsemen, and infantry
    - 2) They positioned themselves, and prepared themselves for battle against the Israelites
- V) **AS JONATHAN WAS AWARE OF THIS:** He had decided to once again engage them in battle
  - a) He spoke to his most trusted aid, his armorbearer and together they made contact with the enemy
    - 1) As a man of courage and faith, Jonathan was openly desirous of overcoming the enemy
    - 2) He and his armorbearer fought against this second garrison, and the result was fear
- VI) **V15 KEY:** The earth had quaked when the Philistines were defeated, and it was regarded as a sign
  - a) Early in Jewish history, God had made a promise to the nation
    - 1) Ex 23:27 I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.
- VII) **V16-18 NOW:** The watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked and there was the multitude melting
  - a) Saul's spies see the Philistines in full retreat, and come to inform him of what is happening
    - 1) His response is to call roll, and discovers that Jonathan and his armorbearer are not present
    - 2) V18 He is uncertain what this all means, so he *wants to inquire of God* as to what has happened
- VIII) **V19-20 NOW:** It happened while Saul talked to the priest that the noise which was in the camp
  - a) As is being revealed about him, he is distracted by the noise of the retreating Philistines
    - 1) Instead of continuing with his inquiry of the Lord, he simply tells the priest "Never mind!"
- IX) **KEY:** This ease of distraction reveals something of his shallowness and lack of faith
  - a) If he was desiring God's direction he would have prayed with more concern (Jas 5:16)
    - 1) Ps 145:19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.
    - 2) Jer 29:13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.
- X) **V21-23 MOREOVER:** The Hebrews who were with the Philistines before that time who went up with
  - a) The Philistines had control over areas of Israel, and had enslaved some of the inhabitants
    - 1) These Hebrews were forced to serve the Philistines, but now they turn on them
- I) **THE OTHERS:** Who had initially fled now gain courage, and join the battle

- a) All it took was for them to see that victory was possible: and God moved! (V23)
- II) V24-27 AND: The men of Israel were distressed that day for Saul had placed the people under oath
  - a) ONCE AGAIN: We see the ineptitude of Saul and his rashness
    - 1) He had given strict orders that no one was to eat any food until *he* had been satisfied by victory
    - 2) He was more concerned with his own glory and honor than he was for their strength
- III) THE SOLDIERS: Had entered into a wooded area, and on the ground was a honeycomb
  - a) They were fatigued and famished, but no one dared even taste the honey, except for Jonathan
    - 1) He had not heard of the oath, so he took some of it and was immediately strengthened
    - 2) Pr 24:13 My son, eat honey because it is good, and the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste
- IV) V28 THEN: One of the people said Your father strictly charged the people with an oath saying Cursed
  - a) Too late to stop him, he is told that he had violated the oath his father had made them swear
- V) V29-30 BUT JONATHAN SAID: My father has troubled the land Look now how my countenance has
  - a) My father's command was foolish: you have fought, you have won, and you should be refreshed
    - 1) In making this oath, Saul has proven to be impetuous and unwise
    - 2) Eccl 5:2 Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God.

For God is in heaven, and you on earth; *therefore let your words be few.*
- VI) V31-34 NOW: They had driven back the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon So the people
  - a) The battle had covered a lot of territory: Aijalon was around 15 miles from Michmash
    - 1) The people were weary, and they were hungry and when it was evening, began to eat
- VII) BY DOING THIS: They violated the law of Moses in two basic ways
  - a) FIRST: They slaughtered both the mother and the calf on the same day
    - 1) Lev 22:28 Whether it is a cow or ewe, do not kill both her and her young on the same day.
  - b) SECOND: They slaughtered the animals on the ground, and did not properly drain it of its blood
    - 1) Lev 17:12 No one shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood
- VIII) V33-34 SAUL: Was notified of what was happening he immediately orders them to stop
  - a) He has a great stone rolled to him, and orders the people to hang the carcasses on the stone
    - 1) This way they can be drained of blood properly, and stops them from violating the Law
- IX) V35 THEN: *Saul built an altar* to the Lord This was the first altar that he built to the Lord
  - a) He built an altar as an expression of gratitude for the victory of the Philistines
    - 1) This is the only altar he ever built, but it really did not impress the Lord whatsoever
- X) IN BUILDING THIS ALTAR: He was joining in a long line of those who built altars to God
  - a) Gen 8:20 Noah built an altar to the LORD
  - b) Gen 12:7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him (Built 4 altars: Gen 12:8, 13:18, 22:9)
  - c) Gen 26:25 (Isaac) built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD (also Gen 35:7)
  - d) Ex 17:15 Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner
  - e) Joshua 8:30 *Joshua* built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal,
- I) CONTINUING:
  - f) Jud 6:24 *Gideon* built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD -Is -Peace.

- g) 1 Sa 7:17 *Samuel* built an altar to the Lord in his hometown of Ramah  
1) The difference is, Saul's altar is simply an outward show of religion with no substance
- II) V36-46 NOW: Saul said Let us go down after the Philistines by night and plunder them until  
a) Saul was aware that his rash oath had kept them from utterly destroying the Philistine army  
1) Now, he intends to go and finish what they had started, and the people are behind him  
2) THE PRIEST (AHIJAH): Counsels Saul to first ask of God whether this is what He desires
- III) V37 SAUL ASKED COUNSEL OF GOD: Shall I go down after the Philistines  
a) God does not respond, so Saul concludes that some sin has been committed  
1) Ps 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me  
2) Pr 28:9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer *is* an abomination.
- IV) V38-39 AWARE THAT SOMEONE HAS SINNED: Saul once again makes a rash oath  
a) It does not matter who sinned, even if it is my own son, that person shall die  
1) THOUGHT: Whoever is in the way of my getting what I want will be eliminated  
2) NO ONE: Tells him that the one who is in the wrong was his own son
- V) V40-43 THEN: He said to all Israel You be on one side and my son Jonathan and I will be on the other  
a) He asked God to give the perfect lot, meaning reveal which of us is innocent  
1) Pr 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.  
2) Ultimately, Jonathan is revealed and confesses that he had tasted some honey
- VI) V44-46 SAUL ANSWERED: God do so and more also for you shall surely die Jonathan  
a) Jonathan did not know about the oath, but because God's name was used God was angry  
1) He does not take oaths made in His name lightly  
2) Dt 23:21 "When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you.
- VII) SAUL: Had promised death to the one who broke the oath  
a) He is about to have Jonathan executed, but the people intervene and prevent it  
1) They were able to see that God's hand had been upon Jonathan, in the victory they gained
- VIII) V47-52 SO: Saul established his sovereignty over Israel and fought against all his enemies  
a) Still, the Philistines were a constant thorn in his flesh throughout his reign  
1) They are a type of the flesh, and because they were not subdued, they continue plaguing him  
2) He constantly was trying to get man to help him, *because God would not*