

- I) **V1-3 INTRO:** Now it happened one day that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who bore
 - a) As we saw last time, the Philistines had gathered an enormous army to attack Israel
 - 1) Jonathan, the son of King Saul, had attacked an outpost of Philistine soldiers
 - 2) As a result, Saul had assembled his troops for battle, and could only muster 600
 - 3) The Philistines had thousands of chariots, cavalry, and foot soldiers

- II) **ISRAEL'S ARMY:** Was made up of a militia of farmers, and none had any swords
 - a) Only King Saul and his son Jonathan had swords, the rest had farming tools
 - 1) The Philistines were so confident that they simply assembled their troops to attack
 - 2) They dispatched a garrison (possibly 50 soldiers) to the pass of Michmash, and waited

- III) **V1 NOW:** It happened one day that Jonathan the Son of Saul said to the young man who bore
 - a) Within two or three days, Jonathan makes a decision to see what the enemy is up to
 - 1) He crosses a pass that separated his position from the Philistines, in southern Israel

- IV) **V1 NOTICE:** But he does not tell his father Saul
 - a) Why did he not inform his father of his plans to see what the garrison was preparing to do
 - 1) **FIRST:** His father would obviously have forbidden him from doing this
 - 2) **SECOND:** Such a plan would require complete secrecy
 - 3) **THIRD:** It may simply be that the Lord had placed it on his heart to do so

- V) **HE CHOOSES:** To enter in to this operation accompanied only by his armor bearer
 - a) The armor bearer was a trusted assistant who carried the commander's weapons
 - 1) He would carry the large shield, and other weapons of war, freeing up the commander
 - 2) He was courageous, fierce, of good character, well trained, and loyal unto death
 - 3) **KEY:** All warriors of distinction had personal armor bearers

- VI) **V2 AND SAUL:** Was sitting in the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which was
 - a) This is just a few miles north of Jerusalem
 - 1) Migron is just north of this area, and Saul is just sitting under a well known tree
 - 2) Migron is a common word for a cliff, so the area around here is mountainous
 - 3) Saul's troops have dwindled to around 600 men

- VII) **V3 AHIJAH THE SON OF AHITUB:** Ichabod's brother the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli
 - a) Ahijah is the son of Ahitub, who was the older brother of Ichabod, the son of Phinehas, Eli's son
 - 1) **POINT:** Ahijah is Eli, the former priest's great grandson

- VIII) **KEY:** He is wearing the ephod, not a normal priestly robe, but one that the high priest would wear
 - a) Lev 8:7-8 And he put the tunic on him, girded him with the sash, clothed him with the robe, and put *the ephod on him*; and he girded him with the intricately woven band of the ephod, and with it tied *the ephod* on him. Then he put the breastplate on him, and he put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastplate.
 - 1) **KEY:** The Urim and Thummim were used to seek God's will, but Saul did not do so (Ex 28:5-13)

- IX) **V4-5 BETWEEN THE PASSES:** By which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistines' garrison
 - a) Geographic marker: This is a pass that is marked by two cliffs facing one another
 - 1) **Bozez:** Shining, and **Seneh,** the Acacia face one another, north and south

- I) **V6 THEN:** Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor Come let us go over to the garrison

- a) This gives us insight into the faith and courage of Jonathan
 - 1) Jonathan had already courageously opposed the Philistines, when he attacked their garrison
 - 2) That was not enough for him, he wanted to deal them an even harsher defeat

- II) FIRST: Notice how Jonathan says Let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised
 - a) This was a way of calling them pagans, but went deeper than that
 - 1) He was declaring that they had no help coming from God, because they did not know Him

- III) THE RITE OF CIRCUMCISION: Pre-dated the Law given to Moses (Lev 12:3)
 - a) God had given this command to Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation
 - 1) It was an outer emblem of the saving faith that he had in God
 - 2) Gen 17:11 You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.
 - 3) Ro 4:11 (Abraham) received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the *righteousness of the faith* which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of *all those who believe*, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also

- IV) KEY: Circumcision was the emblem of Israel's relationship to God
 - a) As a believer in God, in proper relationship with Him, Jonathan expected God to help him
 - 1) He had hope in the God who would be there for him
 - 2) Ps 146:5-6 Happy is he who has the God of Jacob *for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God, Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever*

- V) JONATHAN: Was saying that he had a relationship with God, and God *would be with him*
 - a) These Philistine did not, and therefore were not going to be protected by God

- VI) SECOND: He says *It may be* that the LORD will work for us
 - a) This is not presumption, but is a simple declaration of hope and faith in God
 - 1) He trusted in the God of Israel, a God who had promised to deliver them from their enemies
 - 2) 1 Sa 7:3 Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

- VII) THIRD: For *nothing restrains the LORD* from saving by many or by few
 - a) Jonathan knew that God is the *God of the possible*
 - 1) Gen 18:14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."
 - 2) Job 42:2 I know that You can do everything and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You
 - 3) Jer 32:27 Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?
 - 4) 1:37 For *with God* nothing will be impossible.
 - 5) Lu 18:27 Jesus said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

- VIII) V7 SO: His armorbearer said to him *Do all that is in your heart. Go then* here I am with you
 - a) POINT: If you turn around and move, I will be right behind you
 - 1) You lead, and I will follow (I've got your back!) I will share in all of your dangers
 - 2) Ps 46:7 The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.

- I) JONATHAN: Was a man willing to take a venture of faith, and his armorbearer supported this

- a) He did not say anything to undermine what God might have wanted to do
 - 1) His heart was in sync with Jonathan's, and he trusted in the same God (Not an Eyore!)

- II) V8-10 THEN: Jonathan said Very well let us cross over to these men and we will show ourselves
 - a) Jonathan was not tempting God, but was trusting God to reveal if He was leading him
 - 1) He had a plan: If the Philistines said we will come to you, they were showing courage
 - 2) If they said, come to us it showed they were afraid to leave their positions to fight

- III) V11 SO: Both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines And the Philistines
 - a) The Philistines mocked them, thinking that they were deserters who had come out of hiding
 - 1) Perhaps they thought that they were going to join them against Israel

- IV) V12-14 THEN: The men of the garrison called to Jonathan and his armorbearer and said Come up to us
 - a) IMMEDIATELY: Jonathan sees that God is in this, and tells his armorbearer Let's go!
 - 1) Jonathan leading the way, his friend following, began to slaughter their enemies
 - 2) In a small area of land, a great victory was won as they killed 20 enemy soldiers
 - 3) They may have thought that there were more than just two attacking them

- V) V15 AND: There was trembling in the camp in the field and among all the people The garrison
 - a) The result was great fear, a terror that weakened even the special ops troops
 - 1) On top of this was an earthquake that they understood was from God

- VI) VENTURES OF FAITH: Continue to this day
 - a) It requires trust in God, direction from God, confirmation from God, and likeminded people
 - 1) Ministry is a great adventure of faith: it is simply trusting God to go before you

- VII) WE HAVE SEEN GOD MOVE IN US:
 - a) We started in a home in May of 1981 for Wednesday night bible studies
 - 1) We moved to Ontario, occupied a church on Vine St., then Central School, then OCES
 - 2) Eventually we purchased property on Maple St, rented OHS, and bought this property
 - 3) While here, we tore down structures, built bookstores, classrooms, parking lots, a sanctuary

- VIII) EVERY STEP OF THE WAY: We have said Perhaps God will work for us!
 - a) Maybe God wants to do something bigger than we can imagine, so why limit Him?
 - 1) If we did not think like Jonathan, we would still be in a front room in Pomona
 - 2) Instead, we have 20 daughter churches, are on 49 radio stations, and have seen God move

- IX) THERE WAS JONATHAN: But there was also an armorbearer
 - a) Somebody who would say Do all that is in your heart...here I am with you

- X) NONE OF THIS: Would have happened if God did not bring in armorbearers
 - a) Children's ministries, greeters, ushers, parking lot attendants, worship teams
 - 1) Easter services, Men's conferences, retreats, breakfasts, small groups, hospital visitations
 - 2) There is so much that can be done when you have somebody like that next to you

- I) KEY: Jonathan could have simply stood there alone, even questioning himself *but for his friend*
 - a) You can have all the faith in the world, but so many times God brings others along side

1) Sometimes you have a task, just for you, like David and Goliath

II) STILL: Other times God calls you to serve along side of others in the task He has before you

a) This requires an armorbearer

1) Phil 2:19-22 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. But you know his proven character, that as a son with *his* father he served with me in the gospel.

2) Thank God for armorbearers