

# 1 Samuel 14: Religion without Relationship

## 1 Samuel Chapter 13 Review

- **Jonathan is introduced** as he attacked the Philistines
- **Saul took credit** blowing his own horn
- **Saul reacted** as his men were leaving, leaning on his **own understanding** and disobeying God by not waiting
- **War:** World, Flesh, the Devil and Death
- **Jesus gives us victory** over all our enemies

## 1 Samuel 14

1Now 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 the other side." But he did not tell his father. 2Saul 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, 3and 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**.

- Jonathan continues to pursue the enemy
- We can either run from or run at our problems (hit it hard)
- **Ahijah** was Phinehas' (darkness) grandson in Ely's line
- **Ephod:** Priestly vestment

And **the people did not know that Jonathan had gone**. 4Between 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**, and the name of the other **Seneh**. 5The one crag rose on the north opposite Michmash, and the other on the south opposite Geba. 6Then 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**." 7His armor bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart; turn yourself, and **here I am with you according to your desire**."

- The people did not know: Jonathan was discreet unlike his dad
- **Grags:** two rocky spurs with a pass between them
- **Bozez** = "surpassing white: glistening"
- **Seneh** = "thorny"

- **Perhaps the Lord...**by many or few: Make Big (Magnify)
- **Armor Bearer: "Here I am..."** This is the kind of person a leader wants
- This is the kind of person the Lord wants: **Available** (Samuel)

8Then 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."

- If they say come up... they are given into our hands
- No "If we have a peace about it" nonsense. Do what you know God wants, even if it's hard! Even if it doesn't "feel" right

11When 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." 12So the men of the garrison hailed Jonathan and his armor bearer and said, "**Come up to us and we will tell you something**"

- **Arrogance:** Like an older brother playing a trick and laughing!
- **NIV** We will teach you a lesson

And Jonathan said to his armor bearer, "Come up after me, for the LORD has given them into the hands of Israel." 13Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, with his armor bearer behind him; and they fell [Philistines] before Jonathan, and his armor bearer put some to death **after him**. 14That first slaughter which Jonathan and his armor bearer made was about twenty men within about half a furrow in an acre of land. 15And 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.

- Armor bearer played "pick up" after Jonathan
- Earthquake

16Now Saul's watchmen in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and behold, the **multitude melted away**; and they went here and there. 17Saul 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.

- Saul wanted to know what was going on

- He realized Jonathan and his armor bearer were gone

18Then Saul said to Ahijah, "**Bring the ark of God here.**" For the ark of God was at that time with the sons of Israel. 19While Saul talked to the priest, the commotion in the camp of the Philistines continued and increased; so Saul said to the priest, "**Withdraw your hand.**" 20Then 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.

- **Bring the Arc:** Saul seems to want to seek the Lord
- Saul tells the priest **Withdraw your hand** ("Stop the God stuff I need to handle this situation the way I see fit")
- Saul **again** is not waiting on the Lord (previous sacrifice)
- God will put us in **similar situations until we learn!**

21Now 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. 22When 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. 23So the **LORD delivered Israel** that day, and the battle spread beyond Beth-aven.

- **The LORD delivered:** very important
- Those that hid previously want to be part of the victory now...**is that okay?**
- Paul shows us God's heart **after failure**

**Acts 13:13** (Read) Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; but **John left them and returned** to Jerusalem.

- John Mark left when things got tough

**Acts 15:36** (Read) After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." 37Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. 38But Paul kept **insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them** in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. 39And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.

40But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord.

- Paul was upset and did not want to work with John Mark
- **Later**, Paul says this:

**2 Timothy 4:11** Only Luke is with me. Pick up [John] Mark and bring him with you, for **he is useful to me for service.**

- God's heart is to **restore those who fail** (all of us)
- **Winston Churchill:** *Courage is going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm.*
- **Robert F. Kennedy:** *Only those who dare to **fail greatly** can ever achieve greatly*
- **John Mark** later wrote the Gospel of Mark

24Now 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.**

- Saul demands that no one eat as some sort of sacrifice
- "...until I have avenged myself..."
- Saul's getting more and more twisted
- **Love of self** and denying God now will open Saul up to the occult later

25All the people of the land entered the forest, and there was honey on the ground. 26When 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. 27But **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.** 28Then one of the people said, "Your father strictly put the people under oath, saying, 'Cursed be the man who eats food today.'" And the people were weary. 29Then 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."**

- My father's rash, ridiculous, selfish order is the reason for **incomplete victory**

- Nothing is worse than rules without relationship; Christianity without Christ!

31They struck among the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon. And the people were **very weary**. 32 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. **33Then 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."

- What a bloody scene
- Law: Do not eat the blood (Pagan Demonic Practice)
- Saul's order to not eat caused brought about this sin
- Jehovah Witnesses **also cause people to sin** by foolish orders
- They say that blood transfusions are "**eating blood**" and allow their own children and others to die!

**Matthew 18: 6** "...if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. 7"Woe to the world **because of the things that cause people to sin!** Such things must come, **but woe to the man through whom they come!**

- Woe to the Watchtower and Bible and Tract Society
- Misusing the Word of God and causing others to sin
- Woe to Saul!

34Saul 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. 35And Saul built an altar to the LORD; it was the first altar that he built to the LORD. 36Then 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." 37Saul inquired of God, "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will You give them into the hand of Israel?" **But He did not answer him on that day.**

- **Do not sin** against the Lord. (What!) Condemnation for a sin *he*

caused.

- Satan does the same (The accuser of the brethren)
- **Do what seems good**...this was the peoples choice so they backed him up (abortion activists)
- God did not answer...

**Isaiah 59: 1** Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short That it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. **2**But **your iniquities [sin] have made a separation between you and your God**, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

- Saul didn't know how fast he was falling
- Now he wants to blame others who were "not doing what they were supposed to do" like he was!

**38**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. **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**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**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, not one hair of his head shall fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day." So **the people rescued Jonathan** and he did not die. **46**Then Saul went up from pursuing the Philistines, and the Philistines went to their own place.

- How did it happen?
- Even if it was Jonathan...he will die
- **Do whatever seems good**...the peoples choice
- "The people rescued Jonathan..." they came to their senses!
- **Embarrassing** for Saul...weakness in leadership glaring

47Now 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. 48He acted valiantly and defeated the **Amalekites**, and delivered Israel from the hands of those who plundered them.

- God gave victory to Israel for "His Names sake"
- Saul was actually a valiant warrior

49Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan and Ishvi and Malchi-shua; and the names of his two daughters were these: the name of the firstborn Merab and the name of the younger **Michal**. 50The 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**. 51Kish was the father of Saul, and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel. 52Now 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**. [took him in his service]

- Michal, Sauls daughter and Abner his military leader are first mentioned

## CONCLUSION: **Religion without relationship leads to tragedy**

- The **LORD** delivered Israel, not Saul
- Saul was a **make-believer** (Ark / asking priest to stop praying)
- Saul made **decisions without trusting God**, without a true relationship with God
- Religion without relationship / Rules without wisdom
- **Today:** Christianity without Christ
- **Legalism** leads to:
  1. **Abuse of Power:** Don't eat honey / Forced tithing
  2. **Unnecessary temptation** Honey was plentiful / Celibacy
  3. **Gross sin:** Eating blood / No blood transfusions to death

### **Christianity is a Relationship, not a Religion**

- Jonathan went out in secret: **Believer**, not a make believer
- He attacked the enemy trusting in the LORD who "...is **not restrained to save by many or few**"
- Did not let his father **influence** his own walk

- **Jonathan** had a relationship with the LORD. A relationship built on **love and trust**. What about us?