

THE PERHAPS OF GOD

1 Sam 13 and 14



The Background

- Saul gathered 3,000 troops. He took 2000 and gave his son 1000
- Jonathan won the battle.
- Saul received the credit but did not change the narrative.
- We begin to see the character of both men.



A Different Fight

- 1 Samuel 13:5
- What started with Saul's army of 3,000 was met by an overwhelming Philistine response.
- The Philistine showed up with 30 thousand chariots, 6000 horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore



Israel In Trouble

- 1 Samuel 13:6–7
- The people hid in caves, holes, rocks, tombs, and cisterns.
- Others crossed the Jordan.





Crossing the Jordan

- Notice where Gad and Gilead are. The people are not simply retreating a short distance. They are crossing the Jordan River to escape. Fear has driven them out of the fight. Before Saul ever offers the sacrifice, the people are already scattering, hiding, and abandoning the battlefield.



Saul Under Pressure

- 1 Samuel 10:8
- Fear caused Saul to act.
- Fear caused Saul to disobey.



Samuel's Rebuke

- 1 Samuel 13:13–14
- 'You have done foolishly.'



The Army Shrinks

- 1 Samuel 13:15
- 3,000 → 600



Only Two Swords

- Only Saul and Jonathan possessed swords.
- Yet God was not intimidated by the odds.



Enter Jonathan

- 1 Samuel 14:1
- Jonathan moves. Saul stays.



Ahijah's Lineage

- Ahijah → Ahitub → Phinehas → Eli
- The narrator reminds us of Eli's failed house.



Ichabod's Brother

- 'The glory has departed.'
- 1 Samuel 4:21



Wearing an Ephod

- Saul had a priest.
- Saul had religious structure.
- Jonathan acts in faith.

Why Didn't Jonathan Tell Anyone?

- 1 Samuel 14:1
- Possible reasons:
 - He may have heard the fear and unbelief in the camp conversations.
 - He may have thought someone would try to talk him out of it.
 - He was likely aware of the recent rebuke his father had received from Samuel.
 - He may have wanted to act before fear had a chance to take hold.
 - He may not have wanted to announce it publicly in case he lost his nerve.
 - The text does not tell us exactly why.



The Climb

- Bozez and Seneh.
- Going uphill. Entering enemy territory. God must show up.

The Climb

- What Jonathan faced may have looked something like this. A steep rocky ascent through the passes near Michmash.
- Outnumbered, exposed, and climbing uphill into enemy territory.





The Perhaps of God

- Not doubt.
- Trusting God's wisdom, timing, sovereignty, and power.



Nothing Can Hinder the Lord

- 1 Samuel 14:6
- Jonathan saw the same circumstances as Saul but reached a different conclusion.



Heart and Soul

- 1 Samuel 14:7
- 'I am with you heart and soul.'
- Who you walk with is really important when walking with the Lord.
- The Armor bearer didn't get the same revelation as Jonathan but believed that Jonathan heard from the Lord.'



The Sign

- 1 Samuel 14:10
- If they say, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up.



The Lord Shows Up

- 1 Samuel 14:14–15
- Twenty men fall. The earth quakes. Panic spreads.



Namog

- To melt. To dissolve. To lose courage. To collapse.



So the Lord Saved Israel

- 1 Samuel 14:23
- The Lord receives the glory.



Where Is God Wanting To Move?

- Where have we moved in faith?
- Where are we moving in fear?



Looking Back

- Selling the building.
- Car Care.
- Storehouse.
- Frat house.
- Rugby house.
- Sending people to Kansas City.



The Call On This House

- Not to hide in caves.
- Not to huddle.
- Continue to preach the Gospel.



Partnership In The Gospel

- Philippians 1:3–6
- He who began a good work will bring it to completion.



Standing Firm

- Philippians 1:27–28
- Striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel.



Perhaps God...

- The campus.
- The high schools.
- The marketplace.
- Other towns and cities.



Questions To Take Home

- 1. Where in my life am I moving in fear instead of faith?
- 2. What has God put in me for the people of God and His glory that I am sitting on?
- 3. What is my 'perhaps God' step this week?