

A photograph of a wooden suspension bridge spanning a river. The bridge is made of dark wood and has several tall wooden posts supporting the cables. The water is a light, milky color. On the right side, there is a steep, rocky bank with some sparse vegetation. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall tone is somewhat somber and historical.

CHAPTER 13

1 Samuel

Chapter 13 Notes:

- ❖ In the OT we are looking for the 'snake crusher' and last week Saul crushed the "snake" Nahash but this week we will begin to see it's not him...
- ❖ He looks like the perfect king, but we will see he lacks to character of one!
- ❖ v1 normally age became king & how long ruled
 - Acts 13:21 - he reigned 40 years!
- ❖ v2 Not sure the logic of going from 330k to 3k? = the 1st regular standing army
- ❖ v3-4 Jonathon picks the fight & Saul takes credit

Chapter 13 Notes:

- Jonathon = "The Lord has given" - he will live up to his name - more about him next week
- Saul doesn't have an Ox to call the army with
- ❖ v5-6 Defeating the garrison is probably not as concerning as Israel putting together an army
 - There is some question among scholars if it was actually 30k chariots or 3k...doesn't really matter it was whole bunch...sand of sea shore!
 - They were probably just putting on a show of strength like the USSR back in the day

Chapter 13 Notes:

- At signs of trouble or hardship the people run and hide...what about their king?
- When you muster an army by fear...you get fearful people (Alistair Begg - "pulled a Saul")
- Market people into the church & the enemy will get marketed right out...

❖ v8 Saul panics

- It seems to only take 7 days for him to start a slippery slope if this is related to 10:8?
- 3 schools of thought here:

Chapter 13 Notes:

1. Yes it's related as I said last week the story is not linear from chapter 10 to here
2. There was months to 2 years of delay for this event to happen...maybe reminders?
3. It is a totally separate event - So as he was calling up the army, Saul called up Samuel and he said he would be there in 7 days
 - It just doesn't matter or change the facts of his disobedience
 - Fact is he disobeyed God's Word through Sam.

Chapter 13 Notes:

- ❖ v9 Burnt Offering(Lev.1) to be offered by the priest - the purpose was to atone for sin & show total devotion and surrender to God seeking his favor
 - Saul was the king, not the priest
 - Maybe he presumed cause he prophesied with the prophets he had the right?
 - It doesn't say the 8th day he offered it, so truth is he was impulsive & impatient!
- ❖ v10 Sam showed up within minutes

Chapter 13 Notes:

- Then he tries cordially greet and welcome Samuel (KJV - "Salute") which kind seems to indicate that he was giving like a priestly blessing as if nothing was wrong!

“[6] If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. [7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Chapter 13 Notes:

- Then he tries cordially greet and welcome Samuel (KJV - "Salute") which kind seems to indicate that he was giving like a priestly blessing as if nothing was wrong!
- ❖ Side Note: It's always 11:59 with God, he's never early or late but always right on time!
 - Can't tell you how many times I have had people call in a panic...
- ❖ v11-12 "What have you done?"
 - A question every parent has or will ask

Chapter 13 Notes:

- The question God asked Adam & Eve - Saul's answer similar = blaming & excuses
 - a. You didn't come
 - b. The people were scared & scattering
 - c. The phillistines were organizing
 - d. I was "forced" to do something
- None are valid when God is involved
- All he needed to do was confess & repent
- The sacrifice was a religious good luck charm

Chapter 13 Notes:

- was false humility & spirituality
 - Not seeking God's favor, will or guidance
 - It's wasn't even about God or relationship with Him!
- ❖ v.13 the fool only thinks of himself
- Never considers God & his command

“[1] The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.”

Psalm 14:1 | ESV

Chapter 13 Notes:

- a false humility & spirituality
 - Not seeking God's favor, will or guidance
 - It's wasn't even about God or relationship with Him!
- ❖ v.13 the fool only thinks of himself
- Never considers God & his command
 - See he acts in a way like God doesn't exist or even matter...this means smart/intelligent people can be fools
 - God put Saul over Israel and under Himself

Chapter 13 Notes:

- So this was going to be problem for Saul to be God's forever guy to carry out God's plan forward for Israel
- ❖ Note: he loses the dynasty here and in only two chapters the crown and by the end of the book ultimately ends up committing suicide on the battlefield!
- ❖ v14 Instead of repenting and putting his faith in God he fights against God's plan in David!

Chapter 13 Notes:

- God is looking for a man who will have his heart, listen to his Word and keep it!
- ❖ v15-16 It just gets harder for Saul instead of 3k he now only has 600
 - It take faith to lead 600...Gideon only had 300!
 - Truth be told God only needs one good warrior and a armor bearer!
 - Or a kid with a sling & a stone!
- ❖ v17-18 Phillistines attempt to isolate them... kinda like he does with us and fellowship...

Chapter 13 Notes:

- ❖ v19-22 As well as keep them from being equipped!
 - Again the enemy is taking away ability to fight...and still extort / enslave - you can farm but not fight!
 - Phillistines were sea fairing people who probably got metal crafting from the Greeks...
 - Primarily kept Israel from having swords... sounds like a good plan spiritually if we have everything we need in the Word of God!

Chapter 13 Notes:

- ❖ Note: Picture for us - we are a people have all the tools (books, education, etc), but aren't willing to crack the Word of God or really even enter fellowship
 - we are consumers who get extorted by the latest fads and influencers drowning in our fears and anxieties refusing to turn and put our faith God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ!

Saul the Faulty King

- ◆ A decaying character
- ◆ Insecure, taking the credit for victories & tooting his own horn
- ◆ Falsely humble, pridefully seeking glory
- ◆ Always a victim of his circumstances, lying, making excuses, blaming others
- ◆ Impatient/impulsive, foolish
- ◆ Not willing to confess or repent
- ◆ Put sacrifice over obedience

Saul the Faulty King

- ◆ Bottom line is Saul was not a man of faith, he had no personal relationship with God and was marginally religious!
- ◆ God was seeking a man who had faith in him and would seek to know His heart, listen to his Word and do his will!

PICTURE OF CHRIST

John 7:1-8

Romans 5:6 says while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly!

This means that if we truly trust him he is never late not early, but always on time so we don't panic...but wait on him every time!

PICTURE OF CHRIST

He is the only king & priest

Not passing blame, but taking on himself the sin of the world

He's the one who was completely obedient to the Father and was the sacrifice!

He's the snake crushing, forever King!

PICTURE OF CHRIST

We have a tendency to feel like we need to do something

We try to do something sacrificially but like Saul it's all wrong and we don't wait for what God wants.

Many times we end up sacrificing fellowship, time in the Word, relationships...things God uses to equip us for our good to build our Faith

“[6] And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him..”

Hebrews 11:6 | ESV