



I Samuel

Part #11 –
King Saul

King Saul's rashness!

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Introduction

Key Scriptures

- Saul chose him three thousand *men* of Israel; *whereof* two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent. – 1 Samuel 13:2
- And all Israel heard say *that* Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and *that* Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal. – 1 Samuel 13:4
- And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which *is* on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven. – 1 Samuel 13:5



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits. – 1 Samuel 13:6
- And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel *had appointed*: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. – 1 Samuel 13:8
- And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. – 1 Samuel 13:9



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. – 1 Samuel 13:10
- And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and *that* thou camest not within the days appointed, and *that* the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; – 1 Samuel 13:11
- But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him *to be* captain over his people, because thou hast not kept *that* which the LORD commanded thee. – 1 Samuel 13:14



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- Now it came to pass upon a day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that *is* on the other side. But he told not his father.. – 1 Samuel 14:1
- And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD'S priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone. – 1 Samuel 14:3
- And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed *be* the man that eateth *any* food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted *any* food. – 1 Samuel 14:24



Keys

King Saul rashness

- King Saul gathers 3,000 men of Israel but loses 2,400 men to fear
- King Saul impatience
- King Saul offers burnt offerings
- Kings are also accountable for their actions
- King Saul is rejected by the Lord but remains King in Israel
- Contrast between King Saul and Jonathan his son
- God delivers Israel by the hand of Jonathan



In this lesson

- Absence of leadership
 - Beginning of King Saul's troubles
 - Bragging and boasting without substance
- Brashness, Rashness and impulsivities
 - Breach of Protocol
 - Bold preparations but God was not in it
- Courage under pressure
 - Contrast between King Saul and Jonathan
 - God rewards faith



Absence of leadership

Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel; whereof two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent. – 1 Samuel 13:2

Beginning of King Saul's Troubles

- Saul gathers 3,000 initially and loses 2,400 before any battle
- Saul proclaims victories to show progress through Jonathan's exploits
- Pandemonium, trembling, abandonment, chaos and seeking asylum are hallmarks of lack of trust in the system
- See 1 Samuel 13:5, Luke 14:31



Brashness, Rashness and impulsivities

And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.. – 1 Samuel 13:8

Breach of Protocol

- We got this! We don't need Samuel – Leviticus 1:6, 7; 1 Samuel 13:9
- Test of patience – 1 Samuel 13:8, 11
- Test of obedience – 1 Samuel 13:8, 9, 10
- Test of leadership – 1 Samuel 13:12



Brashness, Rashness and impulsivities – Cont'd

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Breach of Protocol

- Test of maturity – 1 Samuel 13:13
- Test of consecration – 1 Samuel 13:8, 9, 13, 14
- Test of humility – 1 Samuel 13:12
- Test of abandonment – 1 Samuel 13:12



Brashness, Rashness and impulsivities – Cont'd

And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted any food. – 1 Samuel 14:24

Misplaced authority resulting from desperation

- Makes vows and issues curses troubles the people – 1 Samuel 14:24, 29
- His words ensnared him and the people under his authority amid the battle – 1 Samuel 14:24
- The people were faint and lacked courage – no food to lighten the eyes and strengthen the bones
- Limited advancement because of irrational thinking – religious thinking!



Brashness, Rashness and impulsivities – Cont'd

And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted any food. – 1 Samuel 14:36

Misplaced authority resulting from desperation

- His vow and curses led to despondency and sin – the people erred against the statutes of the Lord
- The priests attempt to reconcile the people unto the Lord after the people's violation of the word, but King Saul insisted on advancing the battle that night – 1 Samuel 14:36
- Blames the people for the lack of response from the Lord
- His expected his son and him to be exonerated from the sin in the camp. The people escaped the judgement of death!



Brashness, Rashness and impulsivities – Cont'd

And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not. – 1 Samuel 14:45

The people come to Jonathan's rescue

- What Samuel had proclaimed unto Israel came to pass – that the king they had chosen will take their sons and daughters into his service – 1 Samuel 14:52
- The lot fell on Jonathan for eating but the people came to his rescue! – 1 Samuel 14:45



Brashness, Rashness and impulsivities – Cont'd

And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD'S priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone. – 1 Samuel 14:3

Bold preparations but God was not in it

- Saul numbers the people – about 600 men down from 3,000
- The child of God was not designed to go to battle at his own charges.
- We are to wait upon the commands and instructions of our king. The Lord Sabaoth! – 1 Corinthians 9:7; Luke 14:31
- The representatives of God were there, but they were not able to discern or see – 1 Samuel 14:3; Luke 3:1,2



Courage under pressure

Now it came to pass upon a day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that is on the other side. But he told not his father. – 1 Samuel 14:1

Contrast between King Saul and Jonathan

- It is never about you but about the Kingdom. Your assignment is about the Kingdom
- Despite the rebellion of the King, the interest of the Lord was still to favor Israel and deliver them from oppression
- While King Saul was making irrational vows and decisions, Jonathan was advancing the causes of the kingdom



Courage under pressure – Cont'd

And Saul tarried in the uttermost part of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron: and the people that were with him were about six hundred men; – 1 Samuel 14:2

Contrast between King Saul and Jonathan

- King Saul remained in the uttermost part of Gibeah, but Jonathan his son went over into the Philistine territory
- King Saul relied of the presence of his clergy, but Jonathan relied on the Lord



Courage under pressure – Cont'd

And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD'S priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone. – 1 Samuel 14:3

God rewards faith

- King Saul relied on the remnants of the men (600 men), but Jonathan relied on the Lord
- King Saul hid himself inside the border of Gideah, Jonathan decided to reveal his position and self to the Philistines
- The priests had no voice but had form of presence. Jonathan had an armor bearer that encouraged him and stood with him



Courage under pressure – Cont'd

And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few. – 1 Samuel 14:6

God rewards faith

- Their confession brought in their possession of victory – they spoke the sign! Regardless of the outcome
- The sign was contrary to all indications of safety – but they went anyway!
- King Saul had watch men that watched to determine their advance, but Jonathan had boldness of heart and faith that determined his advance



Courage under pressure – Cont'd

Now it came to pass upon a day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that is on the other side. But he told not his father. – 1 Samuel 14:1

God rewards faith

- King Saul could no longer rely on the priests – the glory had truly departed. He asked them to withdraw their hand – meaning – your services are not needed at this moment, we will rely on evidence instead.
- The Lord overturns the battle King Saul refused to venture into. Jonathan's boldness resulted in the battle turning in Israel's favor.
- Those who sought asylum and hid in fox holes were encouraged to fight as the Philistines fled



Summary

King Saul's choices led Israel into sin



Next Week

We will continue next week – Still in the book of 1 Samuel – King Saul