### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 11

1Well after that, NaHash the AmMonite [went to attack] JabIsh GileAd, and the people of the city said:  
  
 ‘Make peace with us and we’ll become your servants.’  
  
2But NaHash replied:  
  
 ‘I’ll make a treaty with you if I can gouge out all of your right eyes; for I detest IsraEl!’  
  
3And the men of JabIsh told him:  
  
 ‘Give us 7 days, and we’ll send messengers throughout IsraEl. Then if no one comes to save us, we’ll just surrender to you.’  
  
4So they sent messengers to Saul at GibeAh, who told the people there what NaHash had said. And at that, all the people started wailing and crying.  
  
  
5Then when Saul returned from the fields behind the town with his oxen, he asked:  
  
 ‘Why are all the people crying?’  
  
And they [told him about] him the message that had come from the people of JabIsh.  
  
6Well, when he heard what was said, the Breath of Jehovah came over Saul and he was outraged!  
  
7So he took his two oxen and cut them up, then he sent [the pieces] throughout all IsraEl via messengers that proclaimed:  
  
 ‘Whoever refuses to follow Saul and SamuEl will be treated like these oxen.’  
  
And Jehovah then caused a change of heart to come over the people [of IsraEl], and they started shouting together as one person.  
  
  
8So thereafter, when [Saul] counted his forces at the house of worship in AbiEzek, he found that there were 300,000 in the army of IsraEl, and 30,000 more from the tribe of Judah.  
  
9So he said to the messengers:  
  
 ‘Tell the men of JabIsh GileAd this:  
  
 ‘Tomorrow, by the time the sun warms [the ground], you’ll be saved.’  
  
And when the messengers returned to the people of JabIsh and reported what Saul had said, they were jubilant. 10However, the men of JabIsh then [sent a message to] NaHash the AmMonite that said:  
  
 ‘We’re going to come out of the city tomorrow, and you may treat us any way you wish after that.’  
  
  
11Well, very early the next morning, Saul divided his army into three companies and they attacked the AmMonite camp… They kept slaughtering them until the day got hot and [the AmMonites] were all scattered, so that not even two men were still together!  
  
  
12Then, after [the battle], the people went to SamuEl and asked:  
  
 ‘Which are the ones who said that Saul shouldn’t be our king?  
  
 ‘[Point them out] and we’ll kill them!’  
  
13But Saul said:  
  
 ‘No, none of them are going to die today, because this is the day that Jehovah brought salvation to IsraEl!’  
  
14So, SamuEl spoke to the people and said:  
  
 ‘Come on! Let’s go to GilGal, and we’ll establish [the ruling part of] our kingdom there.’  
  
15Therefore, everyone went to GilGal, and SamuEl anointed Saul as king there before Jehovah. Then he offered sacrifices before Jehovah, and Saul and all the people of IsraEl were very happy.