### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 13

1Well, this all happened during the 1st year of Saul’s reign.  
  
And after the 2nd year, [spurious text]  
  
2Saul selected 3,000 men from IsraEl, 2,000 of whom stayed with him in MichMash (in the hills of BethEl), and the other 1,000 were with his son JoNathan in GibeAh of BenJamin.  
  
However, everyone else was sent back home.  
  
  
3Thereafter, JoNathan attacked a Philistine outpost that was nearby in the hill country, and the rest of the Philistines came to hear of it.  
  
So, Saul then sent trumpeters throughout the land 4that told all IsraEl about how they’d destroyed the Philistine camp, and of how [the Philistines] were planning to get even as a result.  
  
So the people of IsraEl gathered to Saul at GilGal to go to war.  
  
  
5Well, when the Philistines arrived, they set up camp at BethAven, which is just south of MichMash. They brought along:  
  
 • 30,000 chariots,  
 • 6,000 mounted horsemen, and  
 • Foot soldiers numbered like the sands of the seas.  
  
6So when the IsraElites saw what they were facing, they were afraid to fight them. As a result, they went and hid in caves, in animal dens, behind rocks, in quarries, and in sink holes... 7Many also ran away and crossed the JorDan into the lands of Gad and GileAd.  
  
So, they all just abandoned Saul at GilGal!  
  
  
8Well, after Saul’s people had deserted him, Saul called for SamuEl. However, SamuEl didn’t come to GilGal right away.  
  
9So after 7 days, Saul said:  
  
 ‘Bring us some [animals] and I’ll sacrifice the whole burnt offerings and peace offerings myself.’  
  
And then he [personally] offered the sacrifices.  
  
10It was shortly after he did this that SamuEl finally arrived... And when Saul came to meet him and to ask for his blessing, 11SamuEl asked him:  
  
 ‘What have you done?’  
  
So Saul said:  
  
 ‘I did this because I saw that my men had left me… And then you didn’t come when you said you would.  
  
 ‘For since the Philistines are camped [just outside] of MichMash, 12I [thought to myself that] now the Philistines are going to attack me at GilGal, and I haven’t been able to beg Jehovah for His help!  
  
 ‘So I took charge and sacrificed the whole burnt offerings myself.’  
  
13But SamuEl said to Saul:  
  
 ‘You’ve done a foolish thing by not obeying the instructions that I gave you from Jehovah, for He had meant for your kingdom to last throughout the ages.  
  
 14‘However, now the kingdom won’t stand, and Jehovah will search for another man – someone who [pleases] His heart – and He will appoint him to be the ruler over His people, because you failed to do what Jehovah said.’  
  
15And at that, SamuEl got up and left GilGal, traveling into the hills of BenJamin.  
  
  
So then Saul counted his troops to see how many he still had left, but he only found about 600. 16So he, his son JoNathan, and his remaining army sheltered themselves inside [the walls of] GibeAh of BenJamin, while the Philistines were camped outside at MichMash.  
  
17And since the Philistines planned to attack them there, they’d stationed a division of their army along the road that leads from Ophrah to the land of ShuAl, 18a 2nd division along the road to BethHoron, and a 3rd division along the road between GibeAh and the City of Zeboim (which is in the desert).  
  
19Well, back then, there were no ironworks anywhere in the land of IsraEl; for the Philistines had kept the IsraElites from [learning this trade], since they didn’t want them to be able to make their own broadswords or spear [tips].  
  
20So until that time, the IsraElites had been going to the land of the Philistines to have them forge all their pruning hooks, tools, axes, and sickles. 21And whenever such things were needed for the harvesting, the [Philistines] charged the same price for everything, three small silver coins, for a pruning hook, axe, or sickle.  
  
22As a result, none of Saul’s soldiers had any spears or broadswords. The only such things among them belonged to Saul and to his son JoNathan.  
  
23Well, meanwhile, the Philistines had stationed a contingent of guards just outside of MichMash.