



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE I SAMUEL 14:1-13

JONATHAN ATTACKS THE PHILISTINE OUTPOST— June 20, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 13:1-14 Saul was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty-two years over Israel. Jonathan attacked and destroyed the garrison of the Philistine army camped at Geba. The rest of the Philistines heard about it. But, then all Israel heard that Saul had defeated the Philistine garrison, and also that Israel had become despicable to the Philistines. And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal, for the Philistines gathered to fight against Israel. When the men of Israel saw that they were in a tight situation (for their troops were hard-pressed), they hid in caves, in thickets, in cellars, and in [dry] cisterns (pits). Saul waited seven days, according to the appointed time which Samuel had set, but Samuel had not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattering away from Saul. So Saul said, *“Bring me the burnt offering and the peace offerings.”* And he offered the burnt offering [which he was forbidden to do]. Samuel finally came and said, *“What have you done?”* Saul tried to justify his actions and told Samuel *“I forced myself to offer the burnt offering.”* Samuel said *“You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God. But now your kingdom shall not endure. The Lord has sought out for Himself a man (David) after His own heart, and the Lord has appointed him as leader and ruler over His people, because you have not kept (obeyed) what the Lord commanded you.”*

Chapter 13:15-22 Then Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul assembled his 600 [fighting] men. And the raiding party came from the Philistine camp in three companies: one company turned toward Ophrah, to the land of Shual, another company turned toward Beth-horon, and another toward the border overlooking the Valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness. There were no blacksmiths in the land of Israel. So, the Philistines had said, *‘If the Israelites have blacksmiths, they will be able to make swords or spears.’* The Israelites used ploughs, hoes, axes, and sickles on their farmland. These tools got blunt. So they had to take them to the Philistines’ blacksmiths who made them sharp again. The Israelites had to pay 8 grams of silver to have each plough and hoe made sharp again. They paid 4 grams of silver for each axe, sickle and ox-goad. When the battle began, only Saul and Jonathan had a sword and spear. The other soldiers did not have any swords or spears.

LESSON: I. A SECRET RECONNAISSANCE I SAMUEL 14:1-5

14:1 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.** Jonathan, the son of Saul the king planned a secret reconnaissance (scouting expedition; investigation) to the other side into the garrison camp of the Philistines. So, he told his armor bearer to come and go with him to seek out the Philistine’s garrison (outpost). He had not checked this out nor talked about this with his father the king. Either he was trying to prove something or he didn’t get all the credit due him for attacking and destroying the garrison of the Philistine army camped at Geba in chapter 13:3, 4. His father took the credit.



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14:2 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;— Saul didn't receive a message or anything of what Jonathan was about to do. Saul had stayed in the uttermost part of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree in Migron (*a town of Benjamin north of Michmash*) and remained with his small army of 600 men.

A "*pomegranate tree*" is about 12 feet high. Its fruit is about the size of an apple, having a red rind and a red pulp enclosing many seeds.

14:3 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. The priest by the name of Ahiah remained there with Saul. The priest is Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli. The intriguing thing about this family: Ichabod, ¹a malicious priest at the biblical shrine of Shiloh, was born on the day that the Israelites' Ark of God was taken into Philistine captivity. His mother went into labour due to the shock of hearing that her husband and Eli, her father-in-law, had died and that the Ark had been captured. He is also named later as the brother of Ahitub. He was wearing an ephod. The Lord had rejected Eli's household; his sons were worthless and didn't know anything about the priesthood, yet Eli's great-grandson (Ahiah) is here with Saul. And no one knew Jonathan had left the camp.

14:4 And between the passages, by which Jonathan sought to go over unto the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side: and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. The path he took to reach the Philistine's garrison was a narrow path over two sharp rocks which had been named Boaz (*means the gleaming one*) on one side and a sharp rock on the other side named Seneth (*means the thorny one*). This reconnaissance was done secretly.

14:5 The forefront of the one was situate northward over against Michmash, and the other southward over against Gibeah. Therefore, the rock on the north had risen on front of Michmash (*a town of Benjamin southeast of Bethel*), and the southern one was on front of Gibeah (*a frontier city of Benjamin near the border of Judah*).

II. AN AUDACIOUS PLAN I SAMUEL 14:6-10

14:6 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. This was Part 1 of the plan. Jonathan and the young armor-bearer (just the two of them) moved boldly using an audacious (daring) plan into the Philistine camp because of the faith-filled word that came out of Jonathan's mouth. He implied that "*it may be that the Lord will work for us, for there was no restraint (restriction) for the Lord to save by many or by few!*" While everyone else was afraid to enter into the camp of the uncircumcised, the two trusted God to give Him the victory and act upon that trust, knowing the size of their army had no relationship to God's ability to help them. Do you remember in the early years of your coming to Christ that you made bold moves because of your faith in God? Then continue!

14:7 And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart. Even the armor-bearer gave Jonathan encouragement, that he was ready to follow him. Whatever was in the heart of Jonathan, the armor-bearer was in accord with him. They were one in heart! Remember we can never do anything for the Lord being divided and expect the victory.

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ichabod>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>



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14:8 Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over unto these men, and we will discover ourselves unto them. Part 2 of the plan. The plan was to cross over where these men are and allow themselves to be seen by the Philistines.

14:9 If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them. After allowing themselves to be seen, Jonathan's surprise plan was: *"If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them."*

14:10 But if they say thus, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the Lord hath delivered them into our hand: and this shall be a sign unto us. This is Part 3 of the plan (verses 9, 10). But if these men say: *"Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the Lord hath delivered them into our hand: and this shall be a sign unto us."* The plan seemed so simple, and it would be a sign from God to them that it had to be God!

III. A CONCLUSIVE VICTORY I SAMUEL 14:11-13

14:11 And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves. This approach was so sudden that both of them were smack-dab in the garrison of the Philistines and the Philistines begin to say *'look there's the Hebrews (Israelites), coming out of the holes they were hiding in.'*

14:12 And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armourbearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing. And Jonathan said unto his armourbearer, Come up after me: for the Lord hath delivered them into the hand of Israel. What a spectacular moment in the life of a warrior. The Philistine men of the garrison answered Jonathan and the armor-bearer just as they desired them to answer with the signal word—*"Come Up!"* Come up to us and we'll show you a thing, meaning how to fight. Upon Jonathan hearing this, he knew the Lord was on his side. So, Jonathan told his armor-bearer to *"Come up after him for the Lord had delivered the Philistines into the hand of Israel."* This victory was not just for him and the armor-bearer, but it was for all of Israel. Whatever victory God allows you to win is not just for you, but for a generation to come!

14:13 And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him. So, Jonathan didn't waste any time. He climbed up upon his hands and feet with his armor-bearer coming behind him, and the enemy fell before Jonathan as he and his armor-bearer killed them.

SUMMARY:

Jonathan, the son of Saul the king, planned a secret reconnaissance (scouting expedition; investigation) to the other side into the garrison camp of the Philistines. So, he told his armor bearer to come and go with him. He did not talk about this with his father the king. Saul didn't receive a message or anything of what Jonathan was about to do. Saul had stayed in the uttermost part of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree in Migron and remained with his small army of 600 men. Ahiah the priest remained there with Saul, and no one knew Jonathan had left the camp. The path he took to reach the Philistine's garrison was a narrow path



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Over two sharp rocks which had been named Boaz on one side and a shark rock on the other side named Seneth. This was done secretly. Therefore, the rock on the north was in front of Michmash, and the southern one was in front of Gibeah (**1Sam.14:1-5**).

Jonathan and the young armor-bearer (just the two of them) moved boldly using an audacious (daring) plan into the Philistine's camp because of the faith-filled word that came out of Jonathan's mouth. He implied that *"it may be that the Lord will work for us, for there was no restraint (restriction) for the Lord to save by many or by few!"* Even the armor-bearer gave Jonathan encouragement that he was ready to follow him. Whatever was in the heart of Jonathan, the armor-bearer was in accord with him. The plan was to cross over where these men are and allow themselves to be seen by the Philistines. After allowing themselves to be seen, Jonathan's surprise plan was to hear a certain phrase that the Philistines would say, and he would know that the Lord had given the Philistines into his hands, for it was a sign unto them (**1Sam.14:6-10**).

This approach was so sudden that both of them were smack-dab in the garrison of the Philistines and the Philistines begin to say *'look there's the Hebrews (Israelites), coming out of the holes they were hiding in.'* This was a spectacular moment in the life of a warrior. The Philistine men of the garrison answered Jonathan and the armor-bearer just as they desired them to answer with the signal word—*"Come Up!"* *"Come up to us and we'll show you a thing, meaning how to fight."* Upon Jonathan hearing this, he knew the Lord was on his side. So, Jonathan told his armor-bearer to *"Come up after him for the Lord had delivered the Philistines into the hand of Israel."* This victory was not just for him and the armor-bearer, but it was for all of Israel. So, Jonathan didn't waste any time. He climbed up upon his hands and feet with his armor-bearer coming behind him, and the enemy fell before Jonathan, as he and his armor-bearer killed them (**1Sam.14:11-13**).