

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## I SAMUEL 13:5-14

### LESSON: SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE UNDER PRESSURE—

August 2, 2020

#### SYNOPSIS:

**1<sup>ST</sup> SAMUEL 12:1-24** Samuel has anointed and officially presented Saul as their king (10:1, 24). He has transferred leadership from himself to Saul. Samuel's role was priest (trained by Eli), judge (the last judge of Israel), and prophet of God. So, Samuel wanted it to be made known publicly in front of many witnesses. And he tells them that he has done what they asked, and has given them a king, and asks if he has ever defrauded, oppressed, or taken a bribe, and they said no. Then Samuel reminds them of God's goodness and blessings—appointed Moses and Aaron, and brought them out of the land of Egypt. Then Samuel reminds them of the blessing of their ancestors when they cried out to the Lord, and as soon as He sent help, they soon forgot. He lets them know that *"the Lord your God was already your king, and now here's the king you've chosen—look him over—you've asked for him, and the Lord answered your request."* He places some ifs in the front of them: **If** you follow...it will be well. **If** you rebel...His hand will be heavy upon them as it was upon their ancestors. Samuel says he's going to pray for God to send rain and thunder which is not supposed to come at wheat harvest, just so they can see the great miracles of the Lord, and realize the extent of their wickedness in asking for a king. Samuel called upon the Lord in prayer and God did just what Samuel asked. The people began to ask Samuel to pray to God for them that God don't kill them, for they were very much afraid, and they now realized they had added to their sins for asking for a king. Samuel still reassures them and tells them *"don't be afraid even though you have done wrong. But this is the time to worship God enthusiastically!"* Samuel really gives them a really touching and inspiring speech of how special they are; how he will continue to pray and help them. But he also ends with a warning that if they continue to sin, they and their king will be destroyed!

**1<sup>ST</sup> SAMUEL 13:1** **Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,**— There is a lot of controversy about Saul's age and how long his reign. This scripture is saying Saul had reigned for two years over Israel but by this time (**13:1**) he had reigned only one year.

**1<sup>ST</sup> SAMUEL 13:2** **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.** King Saul didn't waste any time assembling his army. He chose 3,000 men in Israel. However, he split them up and had 2,000 men spread within Michmash (*located about 7mi. e of Jerusalem*) and Mount Bethel with him. And the other 1,000 were with Jonathan, Saul's son in Gibeah of Benjamin (*located 3 mi. N of Jerusalem*). So, the other people were sent to their own tent.

**1<sup>ST</sup> SAMUEL 13:3** **And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.** *"The garrison"* is the military base, stronghold or outpost. So, Jonathan struck and overcame the

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outpost of the Philistines in Geba located about 5 mi. NNE of Jerusalem and 1½ mi. SW of Michmash. The Philistines heard the news that one of their outpost was overcome by the Israelites. While Jonathan attacked the post, Saul blew the trumpet throughout the land saying "*Let the Hebrews hear.*"

**1<sup>st</sup> SAMUEL 13:4** **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.** All of Israel began to chant: "*Saul had attacked the Philistine outpost and Israel has become obnoxious (an abomination) to the Philistines.*" Of course King Saul had gotten all the credit for the battle that destroyed the Philistines. The people (Israelites) were summoned to join the regular army in Gilgal, and they waited with great anxiety for Samuel, and growing more and more fearful of the vastly superior army of the Philistines, for the Israelites knew the Philistines were coming.

## LESSON: I. SAUL AND THE PEOPLE FEAR DEFEAT I SAMUEL 13:5-7

**1<sup>st</sup> SAMUEL 13:5** **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.** The Philistines had gathered together 30,000 chariots (KJV) (some books have 3,000 chariots probably *to correspond to the horsemen—two horsemen per chariot*) and 6,000 horsemen; and other soldiers too numerous and thick as sand along the seashore, coming up together and pitching their tents in Michmash east of Bethaven getting ready to fight Israel.

**1<sup>st</sup> SAMUEL 13:6** **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.** Well, the time has come and now the men of Israel see the danger of them being hedged in by the Philistines, and their troops began to be troubled and they panicked. The Israelites began to hide themselves in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in high places, and in pits. They forgot that God was on their side. They forgot God gave them that first battle instead of Saul.

**1<sup>st</sup> SAMUEL 13:7** **And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.** Well, they were still running and some ran as far as the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead, but Saul was still in Gilgal with all the trembling people following him.

## II. SAUL GIVES IN TO FEAR I SAMUEL 13:8-12

**1<sup>st</sup> SAMUEL 13:8** **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.** This was the time that Samuel had told Saul to tarry for 7 days in Gilgal (10:8). The people were so scattered and scared, but Saul was there waiting on Samuel, who was to come and offer burnt offerings, and sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings. However, he had not showed up yet.

**1<sup>st</sup> SAMUEL 13:9** **And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.** Oh Oh, Saul had become impatient because he says bring him the burnt offerings and peace offerings. He was not supposed to move on his own, but he did. He offered the burnt offering.

So, rather than wait for Samuel who had done it before (7:9-10), Saul offered the sacrifice unto God by himself. If God would have told him to offer sacrifices, then he would be operating under the direct order of



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God to fulfill this, however according to **10:8 "and (I'll) shew thee what thou shalt do"**, he was operating under the Prophet of God, Samuel who gave him the charge from the Lord in 12:14-15, and who would be there to oversee him. Under pressure from the approaching Philistines, he took matters into his own hands and disobeyed God. Offering a sacrifice to God before a crucial battle was a good thing, but he did it at the wrong time and in the wrong way. Our true spiritual character is revealed under pressure as was Saul's. The methods we use to accomplish our goals are as important as is the attainment of those goals. Neither Saul nor we can work independently of God's laws, priests, or prophets.

**1<sup>st</sup> SAMUEL 13:10 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.** And as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel arrives; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. Can you imagine that Saul is happy, going out to greet and meet Saul, cause he thinks he's done a good thing?

**1<sup>st</sup> SAMUEL 13:11 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;**— Samuel arrives and asked "*what have you done?*" This expression shows that Samuel is disappointed. Saul saw a problem; he handled it the best he knew. 1.) His people were scattered, 2.) Samuel had not arrived within the days appointed, 3) and the Philistines were mobilized in Michmash (*located about 7mi. e of Jerusalem*) to come against them. God could see through all these excuses.

**1<sup>st</sup> SAMUEL 13:12 Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.** So, this is what Saul thought as he's relaying the message that was going on in his head to Samuel. So, he had to react first to the Philistines before they came down from Gilgal on him. He hadn't made supplication (request in prayer) unto the Lord. Then he says he had to force himself to offer the burn offering.

## III. SAUL'S FOOLISH DECISION I SAMUEL 13:13-14

**1<sup>st</sup> SAMUEL 13:13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.** Samuel didn't have any compassion upon Saul. He tells Saul that he had acted foolishly. He had not kept the commandment of the Lord his God which he was commanded to do. This was Saul's sin, disobedience. His sin was a sin against God, for Samuel was the prophet of God and spoke the Word of God to him! When you're faced with a difficult decision, make sure that impatience does not drive you to do what is not in agreement with God's Word. When you know what God wants, don't go against that plan regardless of the circumstances. God often uses delays to test our obedience and patience. Saul had plenty of excuses, but Samuel zeroed in on the real issue: "*You have disobeyed the commandment of the Lord your God.*" If Saul would have done what Samuel had said; and not rebelled against the Lord's commandment, the Lord would have established the reign of Saul's kingdom upon Israel forever.

**1<sup>st</sup> SAMUEL 13:14 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**



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**not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.** God knows our hearts and motives of things. He forgives, restores, and blesses only when we are honest about our sins. By lying to hide his sins behind excuses, Saul lost his kingship. God had already sought a man that operates after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be ruler over His people, because Saul had not kept that which the LORD commanded of him.

## SUMMARY:

The Philistines had gathered chariots and horsemen, and soldiers too numerous and thick as sand along the seashore; others camping in Michmash east of Bethaven getting ready to fight Israel. The men of Israel saw that they were about to be hedged in, and became distressed going to hide themselves in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in high places, and in pits. Some of the people ran as far as the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead, but Saul was still in Gilgal with all the trembling people following him (**13:5-7**).

Samuel had told Saul to tarry for 7 days in Gilgal. He was coming to offer burnt offerings, and sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings, however, he had not arrived yet. Saul had become impatient because he tells the servant to bring him the burnt offerings and peace offerings. Then he offered the burnt offering. And as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel arrives; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. Samuel asked "*what have you done?*" Saul began to give Samuel every excuse he could think of: His people were scattered, 2.) Samuel had not arrived within the days appointed, 3) and the Philistines were mobilized in Michmash to come against them. Therefore, Samuel says he had to react to the Philistines before they came down from Gilgal. He hadn't made supplication (request in prayer) unto the Lord. Then he says he had to force himself to offer the burnt offering (**13:8-12**).

Samuel tells Saul that he had acted foolishly. He had not kept the commandment of the Lord his God which he was commanded to do. This was Saul's sin, disobedience. If Saul would have done what Samuel had said; and not rebelled against the Lord's commandment, the Lord would have established the reign of Saul's kingdom upon Israel forever. By lying to hide his sins behind excuses, Saul lost his kingship. God had already sought a man that operates after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be ruler over His people, because Saul had not kept that which the LORD commanded of him (**13:13-14**).

