

## **230830-4 1Sa 14, Jonathan's Bold Strike against the Philistines—CThurman**

King Saul has chosen to have 2,000 men in his service in Michmash, and for his son, Jonathan, to have 1,000 men around him. Then Jonathan smote one of the garrisons of the Philistines at Geba and as a result a massive force of Philistines have come against Michmash. And for this Israel became distressed. Having no means to protect themselves, they began hiding themselves wherever they could. Some even fled beyond Jordan into the territory of Gad and Gilead. The only two that had weapons were Saul and his son Jonathan.

Saul decided to meet with Samuel at Gilgal according to the arrangement earlier set up by the prophet. Saul was to wait for Samuel seven days. But just before the time was fulfilled Saul went forward with the sacrifices of the peace offerings and burnt offerings offered without Samuel. And as soon as Saul had finished with those offering Samuel came. And for this sin the kingdom would not pass along to his sons, but rather the sought a man after His own heart to be a captain over His people, and the kingdom would be restored to him.

Now, at this point, we know that Samuel left Gilgal and went to Gibeah, but Saul appears to have gone to Geba (text has Gibeah, v.16, but the Hebrew is Geba). In the mean-time the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash, and began plundering the neighboring villages and towns around Michmash. And as we shall read, the men around Saul have been reduced from 2,000 to 600 hundred, and he was now in the area of Gibeah.

### **Chapter 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.***

station

But to his father he reported not (his plan).

*told*, Hiphil (causative act.) pret. of the verb **טָוּן**, also tss. *to shew, to declare, to profess, to utter, to report.*

Saul and Jonathan are evidently together at this time, and Jonathan decides to move north from the area where Gibeah is located.

**2 And Saul יָשַׁב tarried in the uttermost part of Gibeah under a**  
dwelt, remained, sat at the border, brink, brim

***pomegranate tree which [is] in Migron:***

Gibeon to Migron is the distance of about 5 miles to the north.

***and the people that [were] with him [were] about six hundred men;***

Where did the other 1,400 men go? He had chosen 2,000 to be with him.

**3 And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas,**

**the son of Eli, the LORD'S priest in Shiloh, נָשָׂא, v.6, bare wearing an ephod.**  
bearing, carrying, lifting up

The mention of Ahiah leads me to understand that he is ministering to the LORD as Israel's high priest. After all, Saul will turn to Ahiah to send for the ark that is in Kirjathjearim. (v.18) Shiloh was sacked when Eli died. And it appears that what remained of the tabernacle afterwards was brought to Gibeon.

*1Ch 21:29 For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses made in the wilderness, and the altar of the burnt offering, [were] at that season in the high place at Gibeon.*

And apparently Ahiah was now the high priest.

***And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone.***

It could have up to 60 years earlier that Hophni and Phinehas, evil sons of Eli, died in the conflict against the Philistines. It was twenty years after their deaths that Samuel stood to call Israel to repentance if they truly lamented after the LORD in 1Sa.7.2. And now the prophet is old and gray headed,

nearing the end of his life. Though it is not revealed how long he judged Israel we do know that it was all the days of his life. (1Sa.7.15)

Also, this text speaks concerning the priesthood that continued its service around the tabernacle which was still located in Shiloh to this time. Ahiah, the great grandson of Eli was serving as high priest now.

Eli – Phinehas – Ahitub – Ahiah, great grandson to Eli the high priest.

**4 And between the passages, by which Jonathan sought to go over (of Michmash)**

**וְשֵׁן-הַסֵּלַע**  
**unto the Philistines' garrison, [there was] a sharp rock on the one side,**  
the crag of a rock  
'teeth of a cliff,' Robert Young

sharp, וְשֵׁן, a noun tss. *tooth, sharp, forefront, crag, ivory.*

rock, סֵלַע, a masc. noun tss. *stony, ragged rocks, Sela, strong hold, rock.*

**וְשֵׁן-הַסֵּלַע**  
**and a sharp rock on the other side: and the name of the one [was] Bozez,**  
the crag of a rock

**and the name of the other Seneh.**  
Sen'-eh

Bozez, בּוֹצֵץ, Robert Young says this means *height, shining.*

Sen'-eh, סֵנֶה, Robert Young says means *pointed.*

**5 The forefront of the one [was] situate northward over against Michmash, and the other southward over against Gibeah.**

*pillars*, a masc. noun מְצִוּק, tss. *pillars* (1, 1Sa.2.8), *situate* (1Sa.14.5) (situation) (1); the verb צִוָּק, *to pour, to melt*.

So this ravine ran from east to west to divide between Michmash and Gibeah, properly, Migron)

נָשָׂא יָלֵךְ

**6 And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us**

You come

עָבַר

**go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised:**

pass over, cross over station, outpost

**it may be that the LORD will work for us: for [there is] no restraint**

hindrance, limitation

*restraint*, מְעִצּוֹר, a masc. noun this once in the OT.; the verb עִצָּר, is tss. *to restrain, to close up, to recover, to refrain, to retain, to detain, to stop, to reign, to withhold, to stay, to keep*.

**to the LORD to save by many or by few.**

*to save*, Hiphil infin. of the verb יָשַׁע, tss. *to defend, to avenge, to save, to rescue, to preserve, etc*.

**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.**

*turn thee*, Qal fut. of the verb נָטָה, also tss. *to overthrown, to bow down, to incline, to extend, to stretch forth, to go down, etc*.

What faith on the part of Jonathan, and what a servant that followed after his lord! These two put their whole confidence in the LORD to deliver their enemies into their hands. To me this is on a level with David going out to fight against the giant Goliath.

*Due.32.29 O that they were wise, [that] they understood this, [that] they would consider their latter end!*

*30 How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?*

The same is said in Lev.26.1-9. And the text essentially states that if they would put the LORD first, trust in Him, pattern their lives after His word, He would do amazing things in them, for them and to them. Every true child of God wants this for their lives but some are unwilling to commit themselves to this extent. But until we come to this place we cannot expect to be blessed of the Lord in this way.

**8 Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over unto [these] men, and we will discover ourselves unto them.**

show, reveal

*discover ourselves, Niphal (simple pass.) pret. of the verb גָּלַג, also tss. to shew, to depart, to reveal, to advertise, to open, to uncover, to remove.*

And so Jonathan has contrived a sign to know the will of God.

**9 If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you;**

reach

*we come, Hiphil infin. of the verb גָּעַג, also tss. to touch, to smite, to reach, to plague, to beat, to strike, to bring.*

**then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them.**

**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.**

**11 And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines:**

show, reveal

חֹר, masc. noun

**and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves.**

caves



**made, was about twenty men, within as it were an half acre of land, [which] a yoke [of oxen might plow].** a field  
couple, two

חָרַד

**15 And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people:**  
discomfiting camp

Confusion began to set into the camp.

חָרַד

רָגַז

**the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked:**  
shook

לְחַרְדַּת אֱלֹהִים

**so it was a very great trembling.**  
trembling for or to God

**16 ¶ And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked;**

Evidently more than one watchman stood guard.

**and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went**  
(of the Philistines) consumed, dissolved

**on beating down [one another].**

– here and there –

**17 Then said Saul unto the people that [were] with him, Number now, and see who is gone from us.**

At this Saul knew that the cause of the Philistines' confusion was the result of something or someone, so he began to inquire as to what might be that cause. Perhaps it is from someone of our camp.

פָּקַד, Qal fut.

**And when they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his**  
mustered (the troops)



**21 Moreover the Hebrews [that] were with the Philistines before that time,**  
for (part)

**which went up with them into the camp [from the country] round about, even they also [turned] to be with the Israelites that [were] with Saul and Jonathan.**

Few things are so encouraging as to see the tide turn, when it looks like it is nothing but bad and then at the last it turns, we are so encouraged. Sometimes it takes only the witness of two or three that will take a stand out of conviction to motivate others to follow along.

**22 Likewise all the men of Israel which had hid themselves in mount Ephraim, [when] they heard that the Philistines fled, even they also followed hard after them in the battle.**  
joined together

*also followed hard, נִדְבַקוּ, Hiphil (causative act.) fut. of the verb דָּבַק, also tss. to cleave, to join together, to strike, to follow close, etc.*

**23 So the LORD saved Israel that day: and the battle passed over unto Bethaven.**  
(Bethel)

So the Israelites pushed the Philistines to the north and west.

**24 ¶ And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the**  
pressed put under oath  
became taxed

*distressed, Niphal pret. of the verb שָׁגַע, also tss. to exact, to oppress, to drive, to be a taskmaster.*

*adjured, Hiphil fut. of the verb אָלַף, also tss. to curse, to swear (so to put under an oath).*

**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.**

Things are going so well and this man's rashness pours cold water upon the victory.

**25 And all [they of] the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground.**

**26 And when the people were come into the wood, behold, the honey dropped;**

*dropped, יָלַף, a masc. noun, also tss. a traveler; the verb is יָלַף, tss. to go, to walk, to come, to run.*

**but no man put his hand to his mouth: for the people feared the oath.**

**27 But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that [was] in his hand,**

staff

**and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.**

brightened, Interlinear Bible

*were enlightened, Qal fut. of the verb אָוַר, also tss. to light, to lighten, to shine. (1Sa.14.29).*

His eyes had been dimmed for weariness, and now were enlightened. Now they were bright, sharp, alert.

**28 Then answered one of the people, and said, Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed [be] the man that eateth [any] food this**

עוֹף

**day. And the people were faint.**

weak, weary (v.31)

עָכַר

**29 Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you,**

stirred

מַעֲטָה, Qal pret.

**how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.**  
perceived

**30 How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found?**

Or, How much more of the spoil of their enemies which they found, if haply (if only) the people had eaten freely today?

**for had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?  
31 And they smote the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon:**

Israel smote the Philistines even to the foothills west of Gibeon.

**and the people were very faint.**

weak, weary (v.28)

פָּשַׁעַת

**32 And the people flew upon the spoil, and took sheep, and oxen, and calves,**  
dealt with

טָּבַעַת

**and slew [them] on the ground: and the people did eat [them] with the blood.**  
killed, beat

Is this another way to say idiomatically for the phrase *on the ground* – ‘on the spot?’

**33 Then they told Saul, saying, Behold, the people sin against the LORD,**

בָּגְדוּ

**in that they eat with the blood. And he said, Ye have transgressed:**  
dealt deceitfully, offended

**roll a great stone unto me this day.**

**34 And Saul said, Disperse yourselves among the people,**  
scatter, spread abroad

**and say unto them, Bring me hither every man his ox, and every man his sheep, and slay [them] here, and eat; and sin not against the LORD in eating with the blood.**

נִגַּשׁ

**And all the people brought every man his ox with him that night,**  
approached, came near,  
gave place (v.38)

**and slew [them] there.**

**35 And Saul built an altar unto the LORD: the same was the first altar that he built unto the LORD.**

**36 ¶ And Saul said, Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and spoil them**

שָׁאַר, Hiphil fut.

**until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them.**  
cause to remain or rest

**And they said, Do whatsoever seemeth good unto thee.**

Do all that is good in your eyes.

קָרַב

**Then said the priest, Let us draw near hither unto God.**  
come near, approach, stand by here

**37 And Saul asked counsel of God, Shall I go down after the Philistines?**

נָתַן, Qal fut.

**wilt thou deliver them into the hand of Israel? But he answered him not that day.**  
give

That the LORD did not give an answer to Saul, he takes that to mean that someone in the camp has violated his oath.

נִגַּשׁ

פְּנֵיהָ

**38 And Saul said, Draw ye near hither, all the chief of the people:**  
approached, came near, here bulwarks  
gave place (v.34) towers

**and know and see wherein this sin hath been this day.**

how happened

**39 For, [as] the LORD liveth, which saveth Israel, though it be in Jonathan**  
(this sin)

**my son, he shall surely die. But [there was] not a man among all the people [that] answered him.**

(or, But none answered him from all the people.)

**40 Then said he unto all Israel, Be ye on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side. And the people said unto Saul, Do what seemeth good unto thee.**

(or, Do that which is good in your eyes.)

**41 Therefore Saul said unto the LORD God of Israel, Give a perfect [lot].**

Yield

give, of the verb **נָתַן**, also tss. to lay, to yield, to deliver, to pay.

**נָצְלוּ**, Qal pret.

**And Saul and Jonathan were taken: but the people escaped.**

and went forth, departed

'were released' from liability

**42 And Saul said, Cast [lots] between me and Jonathan my son. And Jonathan was taken.**

**43 Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what thou hast done.**

(to)

did.

**And Jonathan told him, and said, I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that [was] in mine hand, [and], lo, I must die.**

**44 And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan.**

**45 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 far be it**

*God forbid, הַלֵּל יְהוָה, an interjection, also tss. be far, be it far, far be it, forbid. (1Sa.2.30; 12.23; 14.45; 20.2, 9; 22.15; 24.6)*

**hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day.**  
worked

**So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.**  
delivered, redeemed, ransomed

It is not revealed what the people did to clear Jonathan of this, but there was something sufficient done for him.

**46 Then Saul went up from following the Philistines: and the Philistines went to their own place.**

**47 ¶ So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon,**  
(to the southeast of Canaan) (to the east of Canaan)

**and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against**  
(to the south of Canaan) (to the north of Canaan)

The place called *Zobah* is Syria up to the great River Euphrates.

**the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed [them].**  
(to the southwest of Canaan) put them to the worse

*turned, of the verb פָּנָה, tss. to respect, to turn, to look, to pass away, to regard; (1Sa.10.9; 13.17, 18 [twice]; 14.47).*

**48 And he gathered an host, and smote the Amalekites, and**  
Or, he worked valiantly, mightily Amalek

נָצַל, Hiphil fut.

**delivered Israel out of the hands of them that spoiled them.**  
rescued, recovered, robbed, to plunder  
plucked, delivered

*that spoiled them, Qal part. Poel of the verb נָסַף, also tss. to rob.*  
(1Sa.14.48, *that spoiled them*; 23.1, *robbed* (marg. 'are plundering')

**49 Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan, and Ishui, and Melchishua: and the names of his two daughters [were these]; the name of the firstborn Merab,**  
(cf. 1Sa.18.17, 18)

**and the name of the younger Michal:**  
(cf. 1Sa.18.20-28)

**50 And the name of Saul's wife [was] Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz:**

Ahimaaz appears to be the son of Zadok, who is a priest of Israel  
(2Sa.15.27)

**and the name of the captain of his host [was] Abner, the son of Ner, Saul's uncle.**

Abner is the general of Israel's host and cousin to Saul.

**51 And Kish [was] the father of Saul; and Ner the father of Abner [was] the son of Abiel.**

Both Kish and Ner brothers, being the sons of Abiel.

*1Sa 9:1 Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name [was] Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.*

**52 And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul:**  
strong battle, fight

*sore, קָיָץ, an adj. also tss. mighty, strong, stiff, hard, loud.*

**and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man,**  
champion mighty, valorous

גִּבּוֹר, a masc. noun, v.48

*strong, of the adj. גִּבּוֹר, also tss. mighty man, mighty one, valiant man, giant, champion.*

**he took him unto him.**

Just as Samuel prophesied a king over Israel would do.

*1Sa 8:11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint [them] for himself, for his chariots, and [to be] his horsemen; and [some] shall run before his chariots.*

*12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and [will set them] to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.*