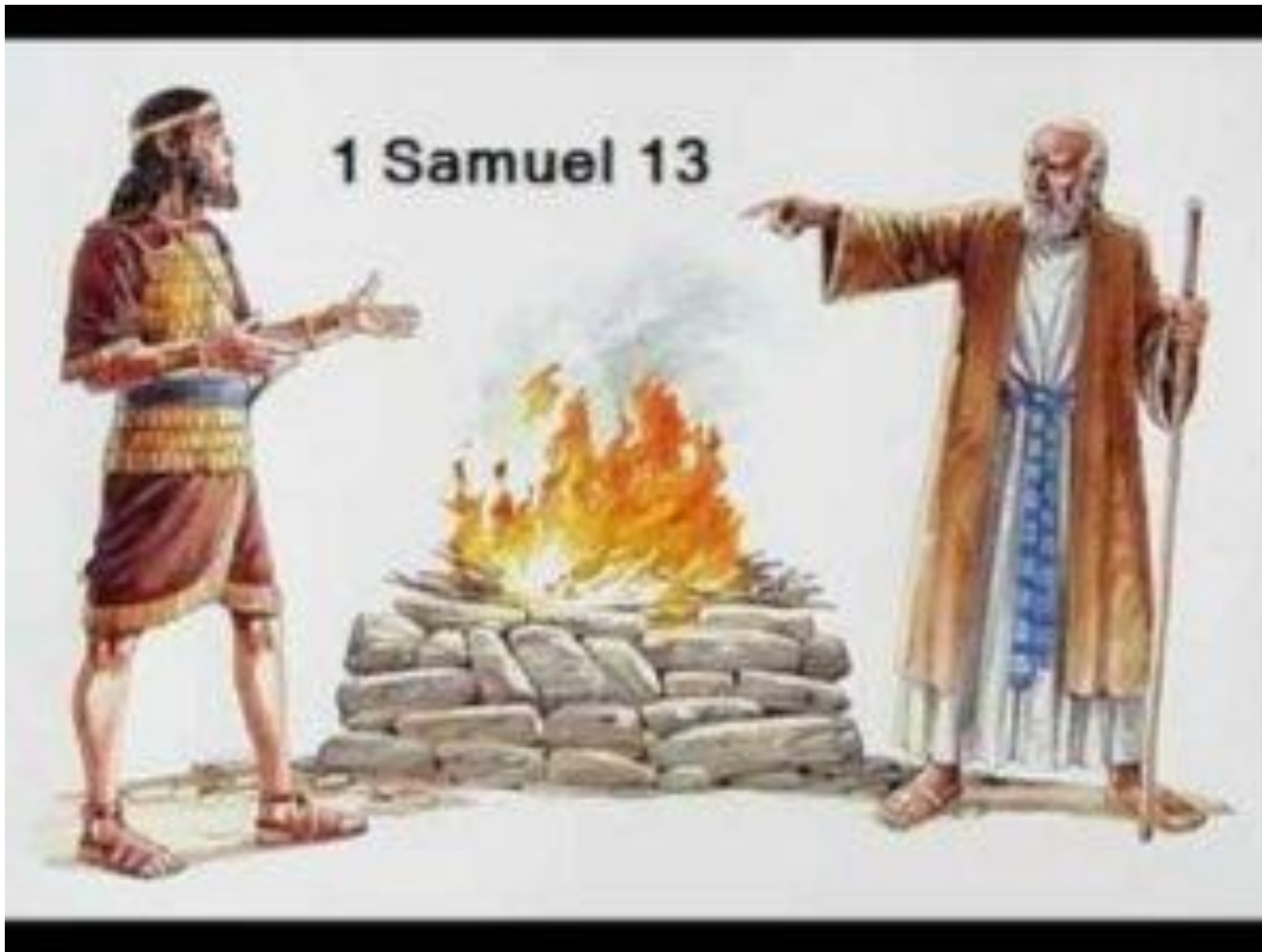


The New King's Army



Sunday January 9, 2022

Today's lesson

- Saul was now anointed king.
- The nation was weak and not prepared for battle.
- Saul's power went "to his head" rather than trusting the Lord for his strength.
- Rather than waiting on Samuel he assumed the role as priest in sacrifice displeasing both God and Samuel.
- The importance of not becoming comfortable with the wiles of the Devil and losing our armor to resist him.

- **1 Samuel 13:1-4 (NKJV)**

¹ Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,

² Saul chose for himself three thousand *men* of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in the mountains of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent away, every man to his tent.

³ And Jonathan attacked the garrison of the Philistines that *was* in Geba, and the Philistines heard *of it*. Then Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear!"

⁴ Now all Israel heard it said *that* Saul had attacked a garrison of the Philistines, and *that* Israel had also become an abomination to the Philistines. And the people were called together to Saul at Gilgal.

- **1 Samuel 13:5-10 (NKJV)**

⁵ Then the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which *is* on the seashore in multitude. And they came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth Aven.

⁶ When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed), then the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits.

⁷ And *some of* the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he *was* still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

⁸ Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

⁹ So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering.

- **1 Samuel 13:10-13 (NKJV)**

¹⁰ Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.

¹¹ And Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and *that* you did not come within the days appointed, and *that* the Philistines gathered together at Michmash,

¹² then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering."

¹³ And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

- **1 Samuel 13:14-18 (NKJV)**

¹⁴ But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him *to be* commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

¹⁵ Then Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people present with him, about six hundred men.

¹⁶ Saul, Jonathan his son, and the people present with them remained in Gibeah of Benjamin. But the Philistines encamped in Michmash.

¹⁷ Then raiders came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies. One company turned to the road to Ophrah, to the land of Shual,

¹⁸ another company turned to the road *to* Beth Horon, and another company turned *to* the road of the border that overlooks the Valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

- **1 Samuel 13:19-23 (NKJV)**

¹⁹ Now there was no blacksmith to be found throughout all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, "Lest the Hebrews make swords or spears."

²⁰ But all the Israelites would go down to the Philistines to sharpen each man's plowshare, his mattock, his ax, and his sickle;

²¹ and the charge for a sharpening was a pim for the plowshares, the mattocks, the forks, and the axes, and to set the points of the goads.

²² So it came about, on the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people who *were* with Saul and Jonathan. But they were found with Saul and Jonathan his son.

²³ And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.

Israel's King

- Saul reigned two years over Israel,
- Saul chose for himself three thousand *men* of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul and a thousand were with Jonathan.
- And Jonathan attacked the garrison of the Philistines.
- Saul blew the trumpet when he learned of Jonathan's attack as though in victory and to summon Israel to his side.
- And the people were called together to Saul at Gilgal.

Believer's Bible Commentary

- The ERV says: "Saul was *thirty* years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years over Israel..." The RSV states: "Saul was... years old when he began to reign, and he reigned... two years over Israel." The NASB: "Saul was *forty* years old when he began to reign, and he reigned *thirty-two* years over Israel." Some manuscripts of the Septuagint simply omit the problem verse altogether! The most likely explanation for this confusion is that some letters were dropped out of the Hebrew text by careless copyists in later centuries. We do know that Saul was a mature man when he came to power because his son Jonathan was old enough to go to war.

An angry enemy

- The Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which *is* on the seashore in multitude. And they came up and encamped in Michmash.
- Israel saw that they were in danger. They hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits. Some crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.
- Saul *was* still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

Saul's Impatience

- Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel.
- Samuel did not come to Gilgal;
- The people were scattered from him.
- Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me."
- He offered the burnt offering.
As soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came.
- Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.
- Samuel said, "What have you done?"

The Excuses

- Saul said,

(1)"When I saw that the people were scattered from me
(2) you did not come within the days appointed,
(3) The Philistines gathered together at Michmash,
(4) I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me
(5) I have not made supplication to the LORD.
(6)I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering."

Samuel's Rebuke

- Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him *to be* commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

comments

- Saul was instructed by Samuel in 1 Samuel 10:8 “You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings *and* make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do.”
- When it seemed that Samuel was not coming he took matters in his own hand rather than seeking God and waiting for an answer.
- Saul came with many excuses blaming others instead of himself resulting in his losing the throne and God seeking another after “His own heart”.

The Result

- Samuel went to Gibeah. (Disappointed with Saul)
- Saul numbered the people with him, about six hundred men.
- **Saul** took his **six hundred men** and joined **Jonathan** at **Gibeah**.
- **The Philistines, encamped** a short distance away at **Michmash**, began sending out **raiders** to the north, west, and east, and Israel seemed helpless to halt them.
- The Philistines had been in such complete control for so long that they had removed every **blacksmith** from **Israel**. The Hebrews had to come to them to get their farm implements sharpened. Only a few men had **swords**. Things looked grim indeed.

Believer's Bible Commentary

Unprepared for battle

- There was no blacksmith to be found throughout all the land of Israel, for The Philistines said, "Lest the Hebrews make swords or spears."
- The Israelites would go down to the Philistines to sharpen each man's plowshare, his mattock, his ax, and his sickle; The charge for a sharpening was a pim (A pim was a unit of weight equal to $\frac{2}{3}$ of a shekel. Today a shekel is worth about 32 cents making a pim worth about 22 cents) for the plowshares, the mattocks, the forks, and the axes, and to set the points of the goads.
- So it came about, on the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people who *were* with Saul and Jonathan.
- But they were found with Saul and Jonathan his son.
- And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.

Comments

- Samuel left and went to Gibeah of Benjamin, Saul's home town probably in disappointment over Saul's actions.
- We don't find Saul asking anything of Samuel or even seeming sorry for his actions.
- Saul continued preparing for battle even though the people had no weapons.
- The Philistines had charged so little for sharpening tools that there was no longer any blacksmith in Israel. Perhaps they had become so used to the enemy they no longer felt the need of weapons or armor.
- We have seen how the Jews in our bible studies in Ester and Ezekiel seem to fit right into being in captivity.

Resist the Devil

- **Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)**

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

- ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,
¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.
¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

- It is easy as believers to “get comfortable” with the ungodly ways of the world that we see going on around us and to overlook the wiles of Satan rather than resisting him.
- We need to be strong, be alert and stand firm in the Lord like the tree planted by the rivers of water in Psalms 1.