

1 Samuel 13

King James Version (KJV)

13 Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel, (Probably a bad translation. No one knows the age of Saul when he began to reign. Saul may have been 40 when he began to reign)

²Saul 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. (Jonathan was Saul's son. He was a grown man by now and a warrior of Israel)

(Michmash is about 7 miles north of Jerusalem)

³And 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. (Geba = the hill)

(Saul was destroying all the Philistine garrisons that were in Israel. This was not an all out war. Rather, it was a series of local battles to rid Israel of the Philistine occupation)

⁴And 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. (was had in abomination = caused the people of Israel to stink in the sight of the Philistines – better translation)

(This is a figure of speech for intense hatred. The Philistines had been oppressing Israel for the last hundred years or so. They didn't appreciate Israel fighting for their freedom)

⁵And 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. (thirty thousand chariots is a copyist error – This is too many) (Bethaven= house of nothing; house of emptiness or vanity)

⁶When 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.

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. (Those that crossed Jordan were deserters. The people had no faith in Saul, or Samuel or God. They saw the huge Philistine army and thought that they were done for)

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. (Saul waited the seven days as Samuel asked of him. Without Samuel there, the army began to desert. They probably had no faith in Saul)

⁹ And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. (Saul was not a priest, and therefore not allowed to make offerings to God. This a a great sin against God)

(Saul panicked because Samuel was late and his army was deserting him. He should have had faith in God and in Samuel. This was a test, and Saul failed miserably)

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. (Samuel won't be happy with Saul)

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; (Saul had panicked. He had good intentions, but his panic caused him to sin greatly)

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. (This was not allowed by anyone except a priest)

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. (Judgment - Saul's descendants would not carry the king line forward. God would choose someone else)

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 not kept that which the LORD commanded thee. (Judgment upon Saul; he will be king for all his life, but his king line will end with him. David, of Judah, will become king, after Saul; not Saul's sons)

NOTE: (This is good advice to the Elect in the end times. Stay calm; trust God; don't panic just because you think that things look bad. God and His Elect will prevail – by His own time; not by ours)

¹⁵ And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people that were present with him, about six hundred men. (Most have deserted Saul by now)

¹⁶ And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people that were present with them, abode in Gibeah of Benjamin: but the Philistines encamped in Michmash.

¹⁷ And the spoilers came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies: one company turned unto the way that leadeth to Ophrah, unto the land of Shual: (These were Philistine raiding parties – terrorists, saboteurs)

¹⁸ And another company turned the way to Bethhoron: and another company turned to the way of the border that looketh to the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

¹⁹ Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears: (The Philistines made sure that Israel remained unarmed)

²⁰ But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock. (mattock - a pick axe)

(The Israelites were reduced to using agricultural tools to defend themselves)

²¹ Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads.

²² So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there

found. (Only Saul and Jonathan had a real weapon. The other men had farm tools for weapons)

²³ And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash. (Probably a strategic location for the battle)