

## IT MAY BE THAT THE LORD WILL WORK FOR US

### 1 SAMUEL 13:1 – 14:52

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~ We will sustain our thesis regarding King Saul's salvation – which we asserted at the beginning of his Biblical account in chapter nine – as we continue our expedition through the entire Word of God in this report from our Spiritual Safari. I have been harsh in criticism of Saul from the beginning; and by the end of chapter fourteen, there will be no doubt that underneath the handsome exterior veneer of a man, there is no king at all. If you have your Bible, you'll want to open it and turn to this passage. Pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and then read this section of Scripture very carefully before reading this report....

### XIII

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

***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.***

***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.***

***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.***

~ Saul didn't have anything to do with this defeat of the Philistines; it was his son, Jonathan, who secured the victory. Jonathan also did it with half as many men as his father had taken. The true image of Saul begins to emerge right here. Up until now, Saul didn't look so bad – I'll admit that – but we're quickly discovering Saul was a paper king with no substance. On the other

hand, Jonathan was a very capable military leader, and we'll see him fight and win again. Even so, Saul blew the trumpet and claimed the victory for himself.

Some people say if we don't toot our own horn, said horn will go untooted. Well, Saul had no problem tooting his own horn, friends; and he did so at the expense of giving proper credit to his own son. Saul called the entire nation together to steal Jonathan's victory that he had accomplished for them. It was a fraudulent report Saul gave; and the army of Jonathan knew it. This is where the people begin to suspect a weakness in Saul's command; his Achille's Heel is exposed. I said Saul's humble appearance at the beginning of his account was a false humility – and here is unimpeachable proof....

***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.***

***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.***

***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.***

***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.***

***9 And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.***

~ This is another revelation of the impatience and presumptuousness that defines King Saul. Later in the history of the nation Israel, we'll meet another presumptuous king named Uzziah; and his presumption was

equally as detestable to God. Uzziah will be made into a leper for his disobedience. Here, Saul assumes that he will simply usurp the office of priest, because he isn't willing to wait for Samuel. In verse eleven, Saul gives three reasons to rationalize away his disobedience to the Lord God: the people were scattered; the Philistines were making war; and Samuel was nowhere to be found. Saul blames everyone and everything else, including his circumstances, for this presumptuously disobedient thing that he did....

***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.***

***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;***

***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.***

~ Saul rationalizes disobedience by explaining how he had to act hastily because, if he hadn't, the Philistines would have come down against Israel. When Saul says he hadn't made supplication to the Lord, that is simply another false piosity. When Saul says he "forced himself" to make an offering – that is a flagrant lie to Samuel, friends. Now, we know the real King Saul....

***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 told Saul a long time ago that if he would obey God, then God would bless him. Saul immediately disobeyed in a matter that a king ought never disobey God. Because of that presumptuousness, Saul is going to be cut off completely. God has another man in mind, but Samuel has no idea

who or where that man is at this time. We know it will be David. See, the king MUST obey the Lord! The ruler in this world is subject to God Himself. We need a leader who is actually being ruled by the Lord. Because we do not have that type of leadership, we have the problems in this modern world which have no solution. As believers, we know we'll not have that proper type of ruler until Jesus reigns over this earth according to the plan and purpose of God, too – so, let's keep moving....

***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.***

***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.***

***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:***

***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.***

~ As we read on, we see the real danger with a disarmament treatise. Of course, many people are trying to disarm American citizen's today. Their philosophy is: if we destroy all weaponry, there would be no more war. Personally, I can't think of anything more foolish than that theory. Others subscribe to a philosophy of removing guns from private ownership. Unfortunately, there are so many firearm regulations now that the only people who don't own guns are law abiding citizens; the criminal has guns and access to more. They don't bother with a legal process. A peaceful

citizen is already wide open to criminals; and outlawing guns would only serve to increase exposure. Well, our Spiritual Safari is not out on a political rant in this report; this type of asinine thinking is what was happening in the nation Israel with King Saul as the Philistines disarm Israel at the time in which we are studying....

***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:***

***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.***

***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.***

~ The only weapons available to Israel now are farm tools because the Philistines now controlled the weapons market. Israel had to come to the enemy just to get sharpened-up for farming! That's an extremely effective way to keep a survey of how many and what types of instruments – both for warfare and for agriculture - are available to the countrymen, too. Only Saul and his army had any real weapons to defend themselves with in Israel....

***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.***

***23 And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.***

## **XIV**

***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.***

***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;***

***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.***

***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.***

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

***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.***

***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.***

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

~ Here, we have the strategy for warfare Jonathan planned and implemented. We're told in secular history that Field Marshal Edmund Allenby read this chapter the night before he made his attack on the Turks in World War One. After only one day of fighting, the Turks retreated, and Jerusalem fell into British hands. Well, he used the same strategy Jonathan used. This is an approved military tactic, by the way; and they teach this maneuver in West Point. Jonathan takes his men through a very narrow pass; that limits the number of men that can fight on either side; and it creates a distinct advantage. That's how the plan went at Thermopylae in 480 BC; it is a very narrow coastal pass where the Greeks were

astronomically outnumbered by the Persians. Well, the Greeks were superior man for man, so they bottled the Persians up and fought them by small companies. Here, Israel was far superior to the Philistine army in a man for man comparison – but hopelessly outnumbered. Now, that's fun history, but, we also have a tremendous Spiritual lesson as we read on....

***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.***

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

***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.***

***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.***

***14 And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armourbearer made , was about twenty men, within as it were an half acre of land, which a yoke of oxen might plow.***

***15 And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling.***

***16 And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went on beating down one another.***

**17 Then said Saul unto the people that were with him, Number now, and see who is gone from us. And when they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armourbearer were not there.**

**18 And Saul said unto Ahiah, Bring hither the ark of God. For the ark of God was at that time with the children of Israel.**

~ We saw this superstition in the early days of Samuel regarding the presence of the ark and how Israel brought it into battle completely against the Mosaic Law. Saul is now doing it again for practically the same reason. Well, Jonathan has won this battle on the human plane, because God is with this great young man. Saul wasn't even in the picture. It's too bad Jonathan didn't live longer than he did because he would have made the best possible second in command for King David when that day comes; but, it doesn't work out that way....

**19 And it came to pass, while Saul talked unto the priest, that the noise that was in the host of the Philistines went on and increased: and Saul said unto the priest, Withdraw thine hand.**

**20 And Saul and all the people that were with him assembled themselves, and they came to the battle: and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, and there was a very great discomfiture.**

**21 Moreover the Hebrews that were with the Philistines before that time, 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.**

**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.**

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



**24 And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the 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.**

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

~ This is where things get totally messed up. Saul said no one can eat until the battle was won; well, not only did Jonathan not get the order to fast, but Jonathan had ALREADY won the battle when he ate the honey. Even so, Saul insists on killing Jonathan for not obeying! The only problem is Saul had already fraudulently declared and taken credit for the victory to himself; and his pride overwhelmed him. All of that fake modesty we saw in Saul's beginning is totally gone now; and his jealousy over his son is revealed in all of its ugliness. Saul is Satan's man, friends. This is a total fools' actions on the part of Saul...

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

**29 Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.**

**30 How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found? 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: and the people were very faint.**

**32 And the people flew upon the spoil, and took sheep, and oxen, and calves, and slew them on the ground: and the people did eat them with the blood.**

**33 Then they told Saul, saying, Behold, the people sin against the LORD, in that they eat with the blood. And he said, Ye have transgressed: roll a great stone unto me this day.**

**34 And Saul said, Disperse yourselves among the people, 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. And all the people brought every man his ox with him that night, 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 until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them. And they said, Do whatsoever seemeth good unto thee. Then said the priest, Let us draw near hither unto God.**

**37 And Saul asked counsel of God, Shall I go down after the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into the hand of Israel? But he answered him not that day.**

**38 And Saul said, Draw ye near hither, all the chief of the people: and know and see wherein this sin hath been this day.**

~ From verse thirty-seven forward in the account of Saul's life, God is no longer using him. Saul isn't willing to own up to his sin; he says it is someone else who had done this thing. He won't admit God isn't answering him – and he's blaming silence on others breaking his ridiculous oath. Well, Saul's army is standing silent, and there isn't one man about to open his mouth in front of this madman anymore. They all knew Jonathan had won the victory. They also knew Jonathan had tasted the honey that day. Saul is exposed as Satan's man, and the army is absolutely dumbstruck....

***39 For, as the LORD liveth, which saveth Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die. But there was not a man among all the people that answered him.***

***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.***

***41 Therefore Saul said unto the LORD God of Israel, Give a perfect lot. And Saul and Jonathan were taken: but the people escaped.***

***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. 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.***

~ Saul will destroy anyone, including his own son if he stands in his way. This is jealousy gone mad. Saul desires all the glory for himself at any cost. Well, this is where the people and the army cannot remain quiet any longer! The true and complete character of Saul is now revealed, and the nation is near revolt. After this, in our next several reports, Saul will move deeper and deeper into direct and willful disobedience to God. We'll see the Spirit of God utterly turn His back on Saul! God will no longer give him

leading; so, Saul will soon turn to the underworld and consult the witch of Endor. This is a tremendous lesson for you and me in our present day of demonism and the occult. By dealing in the stars and horoscopes and worshipping Satan, Saul is going to commit the one sin that will, ultimately, bring tragedy on the entire nation of Israel. In fact, if God had not intervened, this would have been the extermination of the Jews...

***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 hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.***

***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, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed them.***

***48 And he gathered an host, and smote the Amalekites, and delivered Israel out of the hands of them that spoiled them.***

***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, and the name of the younger Michal:***

***50 And the name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz: and the name of the captain of his host was Abner, the son of Ner, Saul's uncle.***

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

***52 And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.***

~ As we consider the state of world society today, it seems as if Satan is seriously stepping up his efforts to deceive the whole of mankind. The devil desires to envelope this world in abject darkness, friends. We must remember God is in control, and that He will speak to anyone who is sincere about listening to Him. It is more important than ever for each of us to be praying for the saints in this world. We also need to seriously pray for every man who is teaching the Bible properly, correctly and completely. No one knows how long it will be before Christ returns – but He is returning – and it could be soon. The question is: are you ready? Have you responded to the invitation of the Holy Spirit? You can receive the Lord Jesus Christ at home, in the office – wherever you are reading this report – Christ is there waiting for you to commit to Him. Jesus died for your sins, and He rose again to offer you eternal life. The real question is: will you – do you – totally trust Him today? ~