

FINAL STUDY NOTES – 1 Samuel Chapters 12 – 14:23 8/11-12/2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente: <https://www.ptwente.com> - Previous Audio/notes ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221

NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile: +16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)
Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbUX7eWEpN>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using *WAZE* ([waze.com/live map](http://waze.com/live-map)) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=Tk5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

One tap mobile; +16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,85309150746# US
Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kk7uQ2Q6>
HAVING TROUBLE LOGGING INTO Zoom? <https://www.technipages.com/troubleshooting-zoom-login-errors>

OPENING PRAYER

1 SAMUEL – Chapter 12 – Samuel’s Address at Saul’s Coronation (vs. 1-25); Chapter 13 - Saul’s Unlawful Sacrifice – (vs 1-15); No Weapons for the Army – (vs. 16-23); Chapter 14 – Jonathon Defeats the Philistines - (vs. 1-23).

- The children of Israel had demanded that Samuel appoint a king to them like the other nations.

Samuel's Farewell Address

1Sa 12:1-2 Now Samuel said to all Israel: "Indeed I have heeded your voice in all that you said to me, and have made a king over you. [2] And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and gray-headed, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day.

- **This is sort of the end of the career for Samuel.** You remember that when he was just weaned, he was brought by his mother according to her covenant with God. He was placed there with Eli in the house of the LORD in Shiloh. There, he began ministering, doing errands. He was just a little errand boy, dressed in linen ephod, going around the temple, attending to the temple needs. Now, he is an old gray-haired man. All of his life he had walked before the people and before the LORD, being faithful and true.

1Sa 12:3-5 *Here I am. Witness against me before the LORD and before His anointed (Saul): Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you. [4] And they said, "You have not cheated us or oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from any man's hand." [5] Then he said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand." And they answered, "He is witness."*

- Samuel is again affirming the fact that he was fair and honest in his leadership. He wanted them to testify to that, and they did. He could have rightfully received wages from the people but he did not. He was a circuit riding preacher, going from Bethel, to Gilgal, and to Shiloh. Yet, he did not charge the people.
- This was much like Nehemiah when he came back to build the walls of Jerusalem. The others who had come and done the work had received salary and wages, but Nehemiah refused, though he could have taken it. He did not want to be chargeable to the people.

1Sa 12:6 *Then Samuel said to the people, "It is the LORD who raised up Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt.*

- He is going to give them a brief synopsis of their history, showing them the place of God in their history. It is always good for us to see the place of God in our history. The history of the United States: what a tremendous place God had in the history and birth in this nation. It is tragic when we misinterpret our history and we begin to attribute our greatness to something other than God, attributing our greatness to a free democracy, or to a free enterprise system. We owe our greatness to God! It was the fact that our forefathers were looking to God for wisdom and guidance in the founding in this nation. Thus, Samuel is seeking out the place of God in their history.

1Sa 12:7 *Now therefore, stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous acts of the LORD which He did to you and your fathers:*

- Just listen to me for a while. I want to tell you everything that the LORD has done. I want to show you the place of the LORD in our history!!

1Sa 12:8-12 *When Jacob had gone into Egypt (about 1,000 years ago), and your fathers cried out to the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place. [9] And when they forgot the LORD their God, He sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them. [10] Then they cried out to the LORD, and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and Ashtoreths; but now deliver us from the hand of our enemies, and we will serve You.' [11] And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, Bedan (probably Barak), Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you dwelt in safety. [12] And when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the LORD your God was your king.*

- They did have a Theocracy where God was King, but they wanted a monarchy. They wanted a man that they could look at. They wanted to be like the other nations. It was a tragic time in their history, moving in a downward movement from a Theocracy to a monarchy. They forsook the LORD from being their King, and now they had a man, Saul, as their king. God had always been faithful, never failing. Now they have chosen a man to be king over them, who will end up to be a real problem to them—a failed king.

1Sa 12:13 *"Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen and whom you have desired. And take note, the LORD has set a king over you.*

- So here he is! This is the man that you wanted and desired.

1Sa 12:14 *If you fear the LORD and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the LORD your God.*

- Be obedient to God, keep His commandments and follow Him. The whole purpose of God was for Saul to be God's instrument in leading the people, that he would be submitted to the LORD so that his reign would actually represent what God desired for the nation.
- **May I carefully notice the instruction here: Fear the LORD! Serve Him! Obey His voice! Do not rebel against His word! Then the promise is that I (we) will continue to follow Him! How much of this is evident in my life? Am I demonstrating this?**

1Sa 12:15-17 However, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you, as it was against your fathers. [16] "Now therefore, stand and see this great thing which the LORD will do before your eyes: [17] Is today not the wheat harvest? I will call to the LORD, and He will send thunder and rain, that you may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking a king for yourselves."

- He wanted them to realize that this was a great sin. He impressed it upon them.
- Now during the time of the wheat harvest, the rainy season is over. They just do not get much rain at all after April. "This is the first day of wheat harvest, and God's going to show you something, to demonstrate to you that what you have done is a grievous sin against God: I am going to ask Him to send thunder and rain."

1Sa 12:18-19 So Samuel called to the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel. [19] And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves."

- Here is their confession. Notice there was not any repentance though! "Please ask God to not kill us." But there was not any repentance or renouncing of Saul. They did not say, "Well, we will take God as our king. We will go back."
- There are a lot of times when people acknowledge what they have done wrong, but there is no repentance with it. How important that there is repentance with the acknowledgment of sin? Unless there is repentance, there is no real change.
- **Whenever the Holy Spirit convicts me of my sin, am I prone just to be sorry for my sin only, or does it always include repentance, a real change in turning from my sin and turning back to the LORD?**

1Sa 12:20-21 Then Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. [21] And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing.

- Notice, when people turn aside from God, they turn to vain or empty things. We notice what stupid things people do when they turn aside from God? Brilliant men who have turned aside from God can get caught up with all kinds of weird beliefs, trying something to satisfy that inner gnawing and thirst. The Bible tells us in (2Th 2:10-12) *and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.* [11] *And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie.* [12] *that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*
- God has created man to worship! There is a worship drive built within each man, I have to worship something. Now, when I do not satisfy that drive in worshipping God, I will worship something like my dog, or my Porsche. The drive to worship is within us, and if we do not worship God, we will worship all kinds of strange things. You are driven to worship. Something within drives you to worship. We cannot help ourselves. We have to worship. (Deu 4:19) *And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.*
- Samuel warns them not to turn aside from worshipping the LORD, because they will begin to worship vain things that cannot profit or deliver. They cannot help you when you are in trouble, really in need!
- When Jeremiah was called of God to prophecy to Israel, God said (Jer 2:13) *"For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water."*
- Here, God is "the fountain of living water," which means running water, an artesian spring, an ever fresh source, and supply! God says, "They have forsaken me the fountain of living waters." But you cannot be without worship, or water. So, they carve out cisterns of philosophies, ideas, or concepts. God calls these "broken cisterns that can hold no water." The worship of God is essential to keep you from foolishness.

1Sa 12:22 For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people.

- This is a thrilling thing! This is so incredible that I am a part of God's people because it pleases the LORD to make me so! It pleases the LORD to make you His people. I love that! Jesus said, *(Joh 15:16) You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*

- Paul says in *(Eph 1:4) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.* We are here tonight because God was pleased to make us His people. How thrilling that is! God chose me that I should be one of His people. It is all His grace!

1Sa 12:23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin (prayerlessness) against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.

- Now, they had said to him, "Hey, we have sinned: and added this wickedness by asking for a king; but don't stop praying for us." Samuel was known as a man of prayer. He was born as a result of prayer. His mother Hannah called him Samuel, which means 'asked of God.' So, there is even prayer within his name, 'asked of God,' early when he was weaned and brought to the temple, where he began to minister unto the LORD.
- When the psalmist wants to give an example of priests, he turns to Samuel. In *(Psa 99:6) Moses and Aaron were among His priests, And Samuel was among those who called upon His name; They called upon the LORD, and He answered them.*
- In *(Jer 15:1) Then the LORD said to me, "Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My mind would not be favorable toward this people. Cast them out of My sight, and let them go forth.*
- The fact that Samuel said, *(1Sa 7:8) So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines."* Samuel had been praying for them all the while.
- Samuel was a man of prayer. In saying, "sin," he is referring to the sin of prayerlessness. "If I should cease to pray, it would be a sin against the LORD." Why? Because the LORD commands us to pray, the Lord encourages us to pray. And not to follow this command is a sin against the Lord;
- **How high on my list of sin is that of prayerlessness? Do I consider that if it is a sin to stop praying as Samuel does here, how much worse must it be, in failing to even start praying for others, especially those who have treated me poorly?**
- *But I will teach you the good and the right way. Does my Christian walk describe that?*

1Sa 12:24 Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

- Oh, may I fear Him in reverential fear and awe! May I serve Him in truth, considering what great things He has done for me!
- **Remember the great things that God has done in your life! Serve the LORD with all of your heart. Fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth. How really thankful am I for the great things He had done for me?**

1Sa 12:25 But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

- So here is a warning! Whenever God warns you about anything, you better listen! Many times, we think that the warning of God is not necessary. "Lord, I know that --who doesn't?" We sometimes chide God because He warns us about a certain thing. Watch out! The place that God warned you, is usually the place where you still stumble. God does not warn us needlessly, though sometimes we may think so. God knows us better than we know ourselves. Whenever God warns you, you better pay attention!
- Oh LORD, help me to pay close attention to Your warnings to me!

Saul Fights the Philistines

1Sa 13:1-2 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.

- The rest of the people were 'business as usual' back in their different villages. Saul, for the first time, had a standing army. Two thousand under his leadership, and a thousand under Jonathan.

1Sa 13:3-4 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.

- **Here is Jonathan out doing the fighting, and Saul is blowing the trumpet!** But all the people hear that Saul is out destroying the Philistines. He is taking glory for another man's work! This is, of course, involved with a bit of pride. A man who started out so humble begins to develop the dreaded thing of pride! One of the seven things that God hates is a proud look, or haughty spirit. The Scriptures warn us (**Pro 16:18**) *Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.* "pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." A man who started out in deep humility, gets a taste of glory, adulation, then he begins to feed on it!
- **So, having the Philistines' garrison at Geba, having been smitten by Jonathan,** the Philistines were going to retaliate and seek to wipe out Israel. So, the two nations are preparing for war. Saul calls the people of Israel to gather at Gilgal and assemble so that they might face the Philistine army.

***1Sa 13:5** 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.*

- **Saul called the men of Israel to come to Gilgal,** and the Philistines gathered a tremendous army with thirty thousand chariots (the Septuagint and Arabic Bible manuscripts say 3,000) and six thousand horsemen. "*The sand as in the sea:*" means that there were so many that you could not count them. There were more than you can count of hosts of infantry.

***1Sa 13:6-7** When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed, the Philistines had a tremendous army), 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.*

- **This was an awesome, fearsome scene.** The Philistines with these chariots were like tanks. The children of Israel were defenseless against these chariots.

Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice

***1Sa 13:8** 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.*

- **Now Samuel had said to Saul, "Look, I'll be there in Gilgal in seven days."** He, no doubt, sent out an SOS to Samuel. Seven days came and Samuel had not shown up yet. The people were beginning to scatter.

***1Sa 13:9-12** So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering. [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?" 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.*

- **Now Saul was not a priest!** He had no business offering a sacrifice to the LORD, not being a priest! This was the duty of the Levites, they were the priestly tribe. He had no right to approach God, even being the king! He did not have the authority to offer a sacrifice. Saul was intruding in an area where God did not call him!
- **We remember Saul was to be proclaimed the king of Israel, but he hid himself.** We pointed out the folly of trying to hide from the call of God. When God has called you to a task and you try to hide from it, we call that folly. It is equally foolish to venture into a task for which God has not called you. God did not call Saul into the priesthood, and for him to enter into that area was just as much folly as it was to try to escape the call of God from what God had called him to do!
- **I am afraid that a lot of people today are serving the LORD out of pressure.** Not because of a calling, but because of the pressure to do certain things for God. If you are doing things under pressure, you are not comfortable with it, and you are resenting it, this is not good for you. We should not do anything that God has not called you to do.
- **Saul was offering lame excuses, actually shifting blame five times!** He did develop into a man with a lot of excuses. Saul will develop into an **excuse making machine!** *The people scattered, the Philistines were*

there, and you did not show up. So, I felt compelled myself to offer a burnt offering.” It has been said that a person who is good at excuses is rarely good for anything else!

- **As I (we) see Saul always making excuses, shifting blame, never really admitting his wrongdoing in sin, how much of that tendency is in me? In my life?**

1Sa 13:13 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.

- Whenever you fail to keep the commandment of the LORD your God, you are acting foolishly: because God knows what is good for us. Whenever I go against God's will, God's Word, -- that is foolish. Because that is saying, "I know better than God in this situation." It is foolish to think that I know better than God! If Saul had not disobeyed, God would have perpetuated his family, the dynasty of Saul.

1Sa 13:14 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."

- So, because of his disobedience and rejection of God from reigning over him, God has rejected him from ruling over the people! God is seeking a man after His own heart. He sought a man and anointed him. We know the story ahead; we know that David is that man after God's own heart. God chose him to be the captain over his people. So, Saul was rejected, and from here on, it is downhill for him!
- It is interesting that though God has now rejected him from being the king over Israel and anointed another one to be king, he will continue to stay on the throne. He will seek, by using force, to hold the throne and to overthrow God has anointed to keep him from the throne. He is holding on to that which is no longer his, seeking to drive out from the kingdom the man whose right it is.
- We have much like that in the world today. When Jesus died upon the cross, He has paid the price for the redemption of the world. It now technically belongs to Jesus. He bought, and paid the price in full. However, Satan continues to sit on the throne, and is doing his best, by force, to keep Jesus from reigning.
- But the day came when Saul was disposed, and David sat upon the throne. Even as the day that is not far from the future, which I trust and pray, Satan is destroyed; and then Jesus will take His rightful place and rule upon the throne over the earth! His kingdom will come, and His will is done here on earth, even as it is in heaven. The Lord has rejected Saul and has sought a man after His own heart, commanding him to be captain.

1Sa 13:15 Then Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people present with him, about six hundred men.

- He had an army of three thousand, which meant that 2,400 were deserters. Of course, the best volunteers are gone too. Six hundred men to face thirty thousand chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and an innumerable infantry of the Philistines.

1Sa 13:16-23 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 onto 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. [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.

- So here you have people from the iron age, with swords, spears, and chariots, fighting against six hundred men equipped with only two spears and swords among the crowd. The rest of them had sticks, slings, sharp objects, or sharpened ox goads. What a mismatch is this vast army of the Philistines against this rag-tag group that is following Saul.

Jonathan Defeats the Philistines

1Sa 14:1-3 Now it happened one day that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side." But he did not tell his father. [2] And Saul was sitting (note contrast to Jonathon, am I more like Saul, or Jonathon? What is my level of contentment with the evil around us?) in the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron. The people who were with him were about six hundred men. [3] Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD's priest in Shiloh, was wearing an ephod. But the people did not know that Jonathan had gone.

- Jonathan and his armor bearer slipped out of the camp. Back in the camp, the grandson of Eli was there wearing the ephod of the high priest.

1Sa 14:4-5 Between the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp rock on one side and a sharp rock on the other side. And the name of one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. [5] The front of one faced northward opposite Michmash, and the other southward opposite Gibeah.

- There is this pass that is there today: on the north side and on the south side, there are these two steep rock outcroppings. These jagged rocks go just about straight up. The passage goes between these two rocks, but those who are standing up on the rocks can easily defend the passage because of the advantage of the height shooting down at those coming through. This is where Jonathan is heading. This passage leads to the whole army of the Philistines who are over there with their chariots. He is heading towards Michmash in this passage that is guarded by the Philistines.

1Sa 14:6 Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor (brave, loyal, skilled in warfare), "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few."

- "Come on, let us go over and see what God might want to do today. Jonathan demonstrated the great faith that should have been demonstrated by the king!
- Who knows, maybe God might want to wipe out the Philistines. If God wants to wipe them out, He does not need the whole army. God can wipe them out using just one man as easily as He can with the whole army." I love the logic of this because it is sound!
- There is the proper understanding of the greatness of God! God really does not need a man or men to do His work. God can work through one man who is committed and dedicated to Him! He does not need a whole army. It is no problem for God to work with many or with few. All we need is God to work.
- It may be that God wants to work! How are you going to find out? You can only find out by venturing out in faith. Step out, like Jonathon does here and see what God might want to do. To me it is exciting, whenever I step out in faith to see what God might want to do. I love it. But I have to make myself available! "Lord, here I am. Do You want to work today? Let us go for it. If not, that is all right too. But Lord, I am available in case You want to work!"
- Jonathan was just going over on the possibility. Notice his faith! He realized that if God were with him, he could wipe out the whole army of the Philistines by himself -- as long as God was with him! As Paul said to the Romans, *(Rom 8:31) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?* Oh, that we might realize the full implication of that! If God is for you, then who can be against you? He is the determining factor! This passage challenges my faith every time I read it! Am I still willing to do anything that God would call me to do? Is there practice of presumption in my faith?
- **Am I open to stepping out in faith, realizing that He can work by many or by few? Do I tend to look at Him in light of my circumstances, or as Jonathon, do I look at my circumstances in the light of Him, such a great and mighty God?**

1Sa 14:7 So his armorbearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart."

- That is the kind of friend I am. Go for it! I will go with you. Do what is in your heart, and I will go along.' I like that!

1Sa 14:8 Then Jonathan said, "Very well, let us cross over to these men, and we will show ourselves to them."

- We will let them discover us.

1Sa 14:9 If they say thus to us, 'Wait until we come to you, then we will stand still in our place and not go up to them.'

- We will search for an alternate plan.

1Sa 14:10 But if they say thus, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up. For the LORD has delivered them into our hand, and this will be a sign to us."

- They set out sort of a fleece before the LORD: "We will go there, and if the guys say, 'Hey, wait there; we'll come down,' then we will take appropriate action. If the guys say, 'Hey, come on up here;' then we will know that God is going to deliver them into our hands. That will be the sign, and we will go for it: we know that God is going to deliver them into our hands!"

1Sa 14:11 So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, "Look, the Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden."

- They were making fun of Jonathan and his armor bearer.

1Sa 14:12-13 Then the men of the garrison called to Jonathan and his armorbearer (importance of two by two), and said, "Come up to us, and we will show you something." Jonathan said to his armorbearer, "Come up after me, for the LORD has delivered them into the hand of Israel." [13] And Jonathan climbed up on his hands and knees (not "let's just pray, it is too difficult to climb up and fight) with his armorbearer after him; and they fell before Jonathan. And as he came after him, his armorbearer killed them.

- These cliffs are so sheer that it will take an expert rock climber to get up them. They climb up the face of a cliff, putting the resin on their hands. They are so careful that they get that hold with their fingers, and then they work around their foot, pulling themselves up.
- Jonathan and his armor bearer must have been pretty skilled rock climbers. If you look at that cliff that they scaled to get into the garrison of the Philistines, you could think them to be experts.
- *They fell before Jonathan. And as he came after him, his armorbearer killed them.* Jonathan had a rod and he was knocking the guys over with it. His armor bearer is coming behind, going through with a spear. Jonathan is knocking the guys over, doing them in. They are starting to wipe out this Philistine garrison that is on the top of the rock there.

1Sa 14:14-15 That first slaughter (initial contact) which Jonathan and his armorbearer made was about twenty men within about half an acre of land. [15] And there was trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and the raiders also trembled; and the earth quaked, so that it was a very great trembling.

- Now, if the LORD is in it, then we can do it! Here the LORD demonstrates that He is in it! He begins to shake the place. There is a tremendous earthquake and things begin to shake. It begins to terrify the armies of the Philistines. Now what if Jonathan had never gone? One man in cooperation with God can turn the tide! God only needs one man in cooperation with Him! He can turn the tide of evil that is flowing over our nation today. Oh, may God raise up that man.

1Sa 14:16 Now the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and there was the multitude, melting away; and they went here and there.

- God thrust them through, and the Philistines begin to fight with each other, wiping each other out!
- 1Sa 14:17-19 Then Saul said to the people who were with him, "Now call the roll and see who has gone from us." And when they had called the roll, surprisingly, Jonathan and his armorbearer were not there. [18] And Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ark (Septuagint and some manuscripts say "ephod") of God here" (for at that time the ark of God was with the children of Israel). [19] Now it happened, while Saul talked to the priest, that the noise which was in the camp of the Philistines continued to increase; so Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand."*

- Ahijah was going to try and get an answer whether or not to go, but Saul said that they did not have time for that.

1Sa 14:20-21 Then Saul and all the people who were with him assembled, and they went to the battle; and indeed every man's sword was against his neighbor, and there was very great confusion.

1Sa 14:21 Moreover the Hebrews who were with the Philistines before that time, who went up with them into the camp from the surrounding country, they also joined the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.

- Some of them said, "We're going to go with the winners;" so they had joined with the Philistines.
- 1Sa 14:22 Likewise all the men of Israel who had hidden in the mountains of Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, they also followed hard after them in the battle.*

- All of these guys that were hiding jumped into the fight when they see the tide's turning.
1Sa 14:23 So __, and the battle shifted to Beth Aven.
- The LORD saved Israel because Jonathan dared to venture in faith!
- *He has done great things! You have done great things And I know You will do it again For Your promise is "Yes and Amen" You will do great things God, You do great things! Hallelujah*

SUMMARY

- **May I carefully notice the instruction here: Fear the LORD! Serve Him! Obey His voice! Do not rebel against His word! Then the promise is that I (we) will continue to follow Him! How much of this is evident in my life? Am I demonstrating this? (1Sa 12:14)**
- **Whenever the Holy Spirit convicts me of my sin, am I prone just to be sorry for my sin only, or does it always include repentance, a real change in turning from my sin and turning back to the LORD?(1Sa 12:19)**
- **How high on my list of sin is that of prayerlessness? Do I consider that if it is a sin to stop praying as Samuel does here, how much worse must it be, in failing to even start praying for others, especially those who have treated me poorly? (1Sa 12:23)**
- **Remember the great things that God has done in your life! Serve the LORD with all of your heart. Fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth. How really thankful am I for the great things He had done for me? (1Sa 12:24)**
- **As I (we) see Saul always making excuses, shifting blame, never really admitting his wrongdoing in sin, how much of that tendency is in me? In my life? (1Sa 13:12)**
- **Am I open to stepping out in faith, realizing that He can work by many or by few? Do I tend to look at Him in light of my circumstances, or as Jonathon, do I look at my circumstances in the light of Him, such a great and mighty God? (1Sa 14:6)**

(1Sa 12:24) Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

GREAT THINGS - Phil Wickham (3:42/3:45)

*Come let us worship our King Come let us bow at His feet He has done great things
See what our Savior has done See how His love overcomes He has done great things He has done great things*

(Chorus) Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquer the grave You free every captive and break every chain Oh God, You have done great things We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high Oh God, You have done great things

*You've been faithful through every storm You'll be faithful forevermore
You have done great things And I know You will do it again For Your promise is "Yes and Amen"
You will do great things God, You do great things (Chorus)*

*Hallelujah God, above it all Hallelujah God, unshakable Hallelujah, You have done great things
Hallelujah God, above it all Hallelujah God, unshakable Hallelujah, You have done great things
You've done great things (Chorus)*

You have done great things Oh God, You do great things

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study 1 Samuel, Chapters 14-16!

ACTION REQUEST! Protect our children, oppose California Assembly Bill #AB 495!

CA Assembly Bill AB495 is an evil, horrible bill that strips away parental rights of being the caregivers over their own children. It creates a dangerous legal loophole; It uses vague and overly broad definitions; It undermines child safety protections; It allows major medical decisions without parental consent.

Go to this link to read more about it. <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB495/id/3220226>

Also, <https://www.californiafamily.org/2025/08/pastor-jack-hibbs-rallies-parents-to-sacramento-if-ab-495-passes-run-with-your-kids/>

Please pray against AB 495! Write or email and call your CA state senator to express your opposition to the bill. Here is a link to find your Ca state senator and their contact information:

<https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

There is a **major rally planned** on the steps of the **Sacramento Capital Building, a week from tomorrow, August 19, 1:00pm. Be there if you can.**

Here is the email that I sent, in case you would like to have a sample. I also called his offices and left a similar message.

My email to Senator Choi (my state senator for district 37): senator.choi@senate.ca.gov

“Dear Senator Choi,

*I am **strongly urging you to vote no** on **AB 495!***

AB 495 strips away parental rights, allowing any adult to claim they are a child’s “caregiver”, and assumes legal authority, making decisions for a child without parental consent, a court order, or a background check!

AB 495 undermines child safety protections. By bypassing traditional guardianship procedures, the bill removes key legal and safety checks meant to protect children.

Sincerely,

Philip Wayne Twente

3489 Wimbledon Way

Costa Mesa, CA 92626”