**Lesson 14,**

**1 Samuel 13:16-14:23**

[13:16-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+13%3A16-18). Having taken **Geba** from the Philistines ([v. 3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+13%3A3)), **Saul and... Jonathan,** after the incident with Samuel at Gilgal, were once again attacked by **the Philistines** from **Micmash.** The latter divided themselves into **three** companies of **raiding parties,** one of which **turned** north of Micmash **toward Ophrah,** the second southwest **toward Beth Horon, and the third** east **toward... Zeboim** (the Jordan Valley). The rest of the overconfident Philistine army remained at Micmash.

[13:19-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+13%3A19-23). This parenthetical note explains that the Israelites were at a big disadvantage because they were not skilled in the manufacture and use of iron; **the Philistines** had kept them from metallurgy for fear the Israelites would **make swords** and **spears. The Philistines** had apparently learned sophisticated metallurgy from the Hittites or other Anatolian peoples with whom they had come in contact as part of the Sea People's migration from the Aegean Sea area to Canaan around 1200 b.c. Israel had to depend on the Philistines for iron weapons and tools ([v. 20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+13%3A20)). In wartime such services were not available, so **only Saul and... Jonathan had** iron weapons ([v. 22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+13%3A22)).

**5. Jonathan's Peril (**[**Chap. 14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14)**)**

[14:1-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A1-14). With the resumption of the skirmish against the Philistines, **Saul** camped near the capital **Gibeah** ([v. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A2)), with **about 600 men.** But **Jonathan** undertook a secret mission into the enemy camp itself near Micmash. On the way Jonathan and his **armor-bearer** passed between two cliffs named **Bozez** and **Seneh** ([v. 4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A4)). As they came through the narrow crevice they were spotted by **the Philistines,** who challenged them to a contest ([v. 12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A12)). Having undertaken his mission with confidence in **the Lord** ([vv. 6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A6), [10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A10)), **Jonathan** knew that he and his servant would prevail. Together they **killed some 20** of the enemy in a small field.

How did Jonathan get that confidence in the Lord? Vs 9 and 10

[14:15-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A15-23). Jonathan's heroic encounter shocked and frightened the Philistines. **Saul's lookout** could see the enemy in flight. Knowing that this must have come about because of some Israelite involvement, the king checked to determine who among his troops had undertaken this independent action. **Jonathan and his armor-bearer** were missing.

Meanwhile **Ahijah** the priest (cf. [v. 3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A3)) came bearing **the ark of** the Lord ([vv. 18-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A18-19)). **It was** still housed at Kiriath Jearim ([7:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+7%3A1)) but as a symbol of the presence of the Lord, it was summoned by Saul to the battle. When **Saul** saw that the Philistines were in total disarray, he ordered Ahijah to **withdraw** his **hand** (i.e., from the sacred lots, the Urim and Thummim, [14:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A19); cf. [Ex. 28:29-30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+28%3A29-30); [1 Sam. 14:40-42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A40-42)). The will of God was now clear so **Saul,** with Israelite defectors and refugees, achieved a great triumph ([vv. 20-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A20-23)).

[14:24-48](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A24-48). Prior to this **Saul had** commanded all his men to fast until they had defeated the Philistines. As hungry as they were in the battle, they refused to eat anything, even some **honey** in the forest, for **they feared** the curse that attended their vow to fast. **Jonathan had not** known of the vow, **so** when **he** came across the honey he ate it and was immediately refreshed (**his eyes brightened**; cf. [v. 29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A29)). The rest of Saul's army was so famished that after the victory they took the Philistine animals, slaughtered them, and ate them without proper draining of **the blood** ([vv. 32-33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A32-33); cf. [Lev. 17:10-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lev+17%3A10-14)). This so alarmed **Saul** that he hastily built **an altar** on which to offer a propitiatory sacrifice to the Lord ([1 Sam. 14:35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A35)).

Atoning Sacrifice

**Saul** then determined to pursue and **plunder** the **Philistines** further but could not get an **answer** from the Lord ([v. 37](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A37)). This meant to **Saul** that someone had violated the fast, and by means of the **lot** (i.e., the Urim and Thummin, [vv. 41-42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A41-42); cf. [v. 19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A19)) he discovered it was his own **son Jonathan.** Only the interposition of Saul's **men** prevented Jonathan's execution ([v. 45](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A45)).

Why did the men prevent Jonathan’s execution, he had just won the day

The major campaigns of **Saul** are listed in [verses 47-48](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A47-48) and include victories over **Moab,** Ammon, **Edom... Zobah** (the Arameans), **the Philistines,** and even **the Amalekites,** though his success over the latter was tempered by his lack of complete obedience to God (cf. [15:20-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+15%3A20-23)).

Once again they obey and then not, obey and then not. Stiff necked people

[14:49-52](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A49-52). The royal family consisted of Saul; his wife **Ahinoam**; his three **sons... Jonathan, Ishvi** (not the same as Ish-Bosheth or Esh-Baal; cf. [1 Chron. 10:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ch+10%3A2) where Ishvi is the same person as Abinadab), **and Malki-Shua**; his daughters **Merab** and **Michal** (David's first wife; cf. [1 Sam. 18:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A27)); and **Abner,** who served as Saul's **commander** of the **army.**

Ishvi is probably not the same as Ish-bosheth because Ish-bosheth was apparently Saul's youngest son born after Saul began to reign. For that reason he is not listed in [1 Samuel 14:49](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A49) but is listed in the total list of Saul's sons in [1 Chronicles 8:33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ch+8%3A33) (cf. [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00010266#links788) on [2 Sam. 2:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+2%3A8)).

According to [1 Chronicles 8:33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ch+8%3A33) and [9:39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ch+9%3A39) **Ner** was Saul's grandfather (Ner's son was **Kish** and Kish's **son** was **Saul**), but in [1 Samuel 14:50](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A50) Ner appears to be Saul's uncle and Abner his cousin. In 1 Chronicles Abner, though not mentioned, would be Saul's *uncle,* for Abner was Ner's son ([1 Sam. 14:50](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A50)). This seeming contradiction is eliminated by the Hebrew of [1 Samuel 14:50b](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A50), which says literally, "Abner son of Ner, uncle of Saul," with the understanding that the ambiguous "uncle of Saul" refers not to Ner but to Abner. Charted, this relationship was as follows:

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

16  Now Saul and his son Jonathan and the people who were present with them were staying in Geba of Benjamin while the Philistines camped at Michmash.
17  And the raiders came from the camp of the Philistines in three companies: one company turned toward Ophrah, to the land of Shual,
18  and another company turned toward Beth-horon, and another company turned toward the border which overlooks the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.
19  Now no blacksmith could be found in all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, "Otherwise the Hebrews will make swords or spears."
20  So all Israel went down to the Philistines, each to sharpen his plowshare, his mattock, his axe, and his hoe.
21  The charge was two-thirds of a shekel for the plowshares, the mattocks, the forks, and the axes, and to fix the hoes.
22  So it came about on the day of battle that neither sword nor spear was found in the hands of any of the people who *were* with Saul and Jonathan, but they were found with Saul and his son Jonathan.
23  And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.

**1 Samuel 13:16-14:23**

**Open it**

1. Why does the bravery of one individual often set the stage for others to dare something difficult?

 **If he can why not me**

2. How were the Israelite soldiers armed? ([13:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+13%3A22))

 **With farming tools, no weapons**

3. What plan did Jonathan propose to his armor-bearer? ([14:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A1))
 **To go to the Philistine outpost on the other side**

4. How did Jonathan express his faith when he proposed the plan to his armor-bearer? ([14:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A6))
 **Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few**

5. What was the servant’s answer to Jonathan’s plan? ([14:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A7))
 **Do all that you have in mind, I am with you heart and soul**

6. What was the Philistine taunt when they saw Jonathan and his armor-bearer? ([14:11-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A11-12))
 **Look, they come out of their holes, come we will teach you a lesson**

7. What was the initial Philistine loss at the hands of Jonathan and his armor-bearer? ([14:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A14))
 **20 men**

8. What was one of the symptoms of confusion among the Philistines? ([14:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+14%3A20))

 **Striking each other with their swords**

**Get it**

9. What did Jonathan know about God’s nature that enabled him to be bold?
 **Nothing can kinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few.**

10. From God’s perspective, why were Jonathan’s actions wise?
 **He was trusting in God for the victory, not himself**

**Apply it**

11. In what circumstance or area of life has God given you the faith to blaze a trail where others see only hopelessness?
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