

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why would Jonathan go alone to attack the Philistines?
2. Where did Jonathan place his confidence?
3. Describe the relationship between Jonathan and his armor-bearer.
4. How did Jonathan know that God would give him the victory?
5. How can we have victory over evil forces today?
6. Have you ever felt surrounded by the “enemy” or faced overwhelming odds?
7. Why did the Philistines slay each other?
8. How does a Christian’s faith and victory encourage others to join the battle?

### SUMMARY:

An enemy army of 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and innumerable soldiers surrounded 600 unarmed men whose leader, Saul, was already rejected by God. Yet, through two faithful men, God gave them the victory.

This could be a picture of the churches today, many of whose leaders have already gone astray, struggling against tremendous forces of sin, evil, false doctrine, etc., to carry on the truth. Yet there is victory, and no force on earth can stop the Spirit of God working through faithful believers.

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #10

June 4, 2023

Second Quarter

### JONATHAN DEFEATS THE PHILISTINES

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**LESSON TEXT:** *1 Samuel 14:1-23*

**LESSON SETTING:** A great army of Philistines banded together to battle Israel.

**TIME:** About 1087 B.C.

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**I. DARING FAITH.** 1 Samuel 14:1-10

- A. Overcoming (vs. 6) Matthew 21:21; Mark 9:23; Ephesians 6:16; 1 John 5:4-5
- B. Employing God’s Power. John 15:5; Acts 3:12; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 4:13

**II. DYNAMIC ACTION.** 1 Samuel 14:11-14

- A. Signal (vs. 10) Joshua 6:20
- B. Advance (vs. 11) 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18
- C. Strike (vs. 13) 1 Timothy 6:12

**III. DIVINE ASSISTANCE.** 1 Samuel 14:15-23

- A. Strengthens the Weak. Psalm 46:1; 68:35; 81:1; Isaiah 35:3-5
- B. Gives Victory to the Humble (vs. 23) Job 22:29; Luke 10:19

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**GOLDEN TEXT:** *THERE IS NO RESTRAINT TO THE LORD TO SAVE BY MANY OR BY FEW.*

1 Samuel 14:6

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** 1 Samuel 13:1-14; 15:1-35

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Psalm 75:1-10

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Samuel and Saul - 1 Samuel

**TOPIC:** SAUL'S SELF WILL

**INTRODUCTION:**

Samuel had told Saul to conquer the Amalekites, and to destroy all that they had. He conquered them, but in place of destroying the spoil he saved the best. He did not obey fully.

May we take this as a lesson for us. Amalek represents the devil, whom we must conquer and all the longings or desires that he may have instilled within our hearts must be completely destroyed. We cannot go halfway; we must be dead to all that is sin. Nothing should remain with us. If some sin persists we are in danger of losing our standing with God even as Saul lost his kingdom. If we have sinned we should immediately repent and ask His forgiveness to again regain our connection with our Heavenly Father. “. . . mortify (put to death) the deeds of the body . . .” (Romans 8:13b) Also “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth . . .” (Colossians 3:5)

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Disobedience to God's commands renders one unfit for service.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *BEHOLD, TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE, AND TO HEARKEN THAN THE FAT OF RAMS.*

1 Samuel 15:22

Saul had a specific command from God through Samuel. Perhaps his intentions were good, and his desire was to obey completely. Then he allowed his own reasoning to turn him from full obedience. How much better he might appear, how much more honor he could win, by allowing the people to save the best of the enemies' captured possessions! The spoil might even be used as a sacrifice to God! But God's command had been that it should **all** be destroyed; therefore such a sacrifice would be an abomination to Him.

God's will for man has always been obedience rather than sacrifice. It was Adam's disobedience that had made sacrifices necessary. It was the continual sin and disobedience of man that brought our Savior to the cross, the ultimate sacrifice. Since His resurrection from the dead, we can be a “living sacrifice”, obeying “from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered to us.” (Romans 6:17)

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 5 – 11**

- Mon. \*Saul Sacrifices at Gilgal. 1 Samuel 13:1-14
- Tue. \*Saul Smites the Amalekites. 1 Samuel 15:1-5
- Wed. \*Saul's Disobedience. 1 Samuel 15:6-16
- Thu. \*God Demands Obedience. 1 Samuel 15:17-23
- Fri. \*Saul Rejected as King. 1 Samuel 15:24-31
- Sat. \*The Parting of the Ways. 1 Samuel 15:32-35
- Sun. The Proud Rebuked. Psalm 75:1-10

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