

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 14

1 SAMUEL 14:1-5 - JONATHAN SNEAKS INTO PHILISTINE TERRITORY (MAP)

1 SAMUEL 14:6-10 - JONATHAN & ARMOR BEARER WAIT FOR A SIGN TO KNOW HOW TO PROCEED

V. 6 - JONATHAN'S VIEW: THAT IF THE LORD IS WITH THEM, THEY CAN HAVE VICTORY NO MATTER THE NUMBER OR WEAPONS OF THEIR SIDE.

1 SAMUEL 14:11-15 - JONATHAN ACHIEVES VICTORY OVER PHILISTINE GARRISON.

1 SAMUEL 14:15 (NLT) - SUDDENLY, PANIC BROKE OUT IN THE PHILISTINE ARMY, BOTH IN THE CAMP AND IN THE FIELD, INCLUDING EVEN THE OUTPOSTS AND RAIDING PARTIES. AND JUST THEN AN EARTHQUAKE STRUCK, AND EVERYONE WAS TERRIFIED.

1 SAMUEL 14:16-23

V. 16 - SAUL'S WATCHMEN BEGIN TO SEE THE GREAT PHILISTINE ARMY SCATTERING.

V. 17 - SAUL WANTED TO SEE WHO FROM THEIR NUMBER WAS MISSING. IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT JONATHAN AND HIS ARMOR BEARER HAD GONE

V. 20-23 - AS THE COMMOTION CONTINUED IN THE PHILISTINE CAMP, ISRAEL WENT OUT AND PURSUED THEM. THOSE WHO HAD FLED TO JOIN THE PHILISTINES EARLIER (NO PRIOR REFERENCE TO THIS) OR WHO HAD BEEN IN HIDING, RETURNED TO ISRAEL'S SIDE, EMBOLDENED BY ISRAEL'S VICTORY

- JONATHAN'S TRUST IN THE POWER OF THE LORD LED TO THIS VICTORY. THIS VICTORY LED TO THE RETURN OF CONFIDENCE AND RAISED MORALE THROUGHOUT THE LAND. 1 SAMUEL 13:6-8 SPEAKS OF MEN "HIDING THEMSELVES", "TREMBLING" AND "SCATTERING". ALL IT TOOK WAS ONE MAN WHO TRUSTED THE LORD, TO ACT IN FAITH - THUS BRINGING VICTORY AND LEADING THE PEOPLE BACK TO SAFETY AND CONFIDENCE.

1 SAMUEL 14:24-30 - JONATHAN EATS THE HONEY

V. 24 - SAUL HAD CALLED FOR A FAST IN THE LAND. HOWEVER, THIS FAST WAS NOT ONE BASED ON SEEKING THE LORD, BUT AN OATH AND PHYSICAL ACT AIMED AT INSPIRING DEVOTION TO SAUL AND SERIOUSNESS AMONGST THE FORCES. THIS ACT BEGINS A SERIES OF RASH ACTS FROM SAUL

V. 27 - JONATHAN HAD NOT HEARD HIS FATHER COMMAND THIS OF HIS PEOPLE. JONATHAN IS "REFRESHED (NLT)" FROM EATING THE HONEY.

V. 30 - JONATHAN BELIEVES THE JOY OF VICTORY IS TARNISHED DUE TO THIS FOOLISH ACT

1 SAMUEL 14:31-35 - THE PEOPLE FINALLY EAT

"WHEN EVENING COMES (V. 34) AND THE PEOPLE ARE ONCE AGAIN FREE TO EAT (CP. V. 24), THEY ARE IN SUCH A HURRY THAT THEY DO NOT PUT THE ANIMALS THEY KILL ON A STONE IN ORDER TO DRAIN THE BLOOD PROPERLY FROM THEM (V. 33). EATING MEAT WITH BLOOD IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN THE LAW (GEN. 9:4; LEV. 7:26; 17:10—14; DEUT. 12:16)." (ESV STUDY BIBLE, 1 SAM 14:32-33)

- RASH AND EMOTIONAL ATTEMPTS TO BE SPIRITUAL BASED ON OUR OWN THINKING CAN OFTEN TIMES BE DISASTROUS. WHILE THE PEOPLE ARE ACCOUNTABLE THEMSELVES TO NOT EAT THE BLOOD, THEIR LEADER SET THEM UP TO FAIL. OBEY GOD RATHER THAN TRYING TO IMPRESS HIM WITH SOME EXTREME OR IRRATIONAL ACT OF SUPPOSED DEVOTION. SAUL'S ACTS WERE OUTWARDLY FOCUSED RATHER THAN A HUMBLE EXPRESSION FROM HIS HEART.

1 SAMUEL 14:36-39 - SAUL DOESN'T HEAR FROM THE LORD

V. 37 - GOD DOES NOT ANSWER SAUL'S REQUEST

V. 38-39 - AS A RESULT OF GOD'S SILENCE TOWARDS SAUL, SAUL ASSUMES THE LORD IS AGAINST HIM/ISRAEL BECAUSE OF SOME SIN IN THE CAMP. SAUL MAKES ANOTHER IRRATIONAL AND DRAMATIC VOW, THIS TIME TO KILL WHOMEVER HAS BROUGHT THIS SIN UPON THE NATION, EVEN IF IS HIS OWN SON.

1 SAMUEL 14:40-46 - SAUL CAST LOTS

- IN SOME CASES, THE LORD WOULD USE THE CASTING OF LOTS TO INDICATE A RIGHT DECISION ON SOMETHING. IN FACT THERE WERE SPECIAL LOTS (URIM & THUMMIM) HELD BY THE HIGH PRIEST. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE TIMES. SAUL IS ADDING FOOLISHNESS UPON FOOLISHNESS.

V. 43 - JONATHAN IS IMPLICATED BY THE CASTING OF LOTS. HE CONFESSES TO EATING OF THE HONEY.

V. 44-45 - WITH THE NATION WATCHING, SAUL IS PREPARED TO KILL HIS SON. HOWEVER, THE PEOPLE INTERVENE ON JONATHAN'S BEHALF, OBSERVING THE FOOLISHNESS OF SAUL'S BEHAVIOR. "THE PEOPLE RESCUED JONATHAN..." - O ISRAEL, BEHOLD YOUR GREAT KING, SAUL! THE PEOPLE SAW THE LORD'S ANSWER IN JONATHAN'S VICTORY RATHER THAN SAUL'S RASH BEHAVIOR.

SIDE NOTE: PEOPLE ARE OFTEN LOOKING FOR A "SIGN" FROM GOD TO KNOW WHEN HE IS LEADING AND WHAT HIS PERSPECTIVE IS. IN OUR PRESENT DAY SITUATION, WE DO NOT HAVE TO GUESS. HE HAS GIVEN US HIS WORD, ALREADY RECORDED AS TO WHAT HE LIKES/DISLIKES, HOW HE WANTS US TO BEHAVE, ACT ETC. THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE SCRIPTURES AND GIVES SPECIFIC INSIGHT AND DIRECTION - HOWEVER, IT WILL NEVER BE IN CONTRADICTION TO WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY SAID IN THE BIBLE.

1 SAMUEL 14:47-52 - DETAILS OF SAUL'S REIGN AND FAMILY

- SAUL WILL HAVE SOME MILITARY SUCCESSES IN THE FUTURE. HE HAD A LARGE FAMILY. HE HAD FAITHFUL SOLDIERS AND SERVANTS. NO MENTION OF HIS DEVOTION TO GOD IN THIS SUMMARY.