

## 1 Samuel 13:1-14 **Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice**

### Attack on the Philistine garrison at Geba

1 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.

3 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.

### Philistines gather at Michmash for war

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. 6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed), 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.

### Saul made an unlawful sacrifice at Gilgal

As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. 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. 9 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."

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. 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."

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

### Attack on the Philistine garrison at Geba [1 Samuel 13:1-4]

✧ At the end of Saul's second year as king of Israel, he chose three thousand men and sent the rest of the men back to their tents.

✧ The small army was divided 2,000 with Saul at Michmash, and 1,000 with Jonathan in Gibeah.

- ✧ Jonathan attacked the Philistine garrison at Geba, for which Saul took credit and called the people of Israel together to Saul at Gilgal.
- ✧ The people of Israel heard that Israel had become an abomination to the Philistines.

**Philistines gather at Michmash for war** [1 Samuel 13:5-7]

- ✧ The Philistines heard of it and gathered a massive armed force in Michmash which is east of Beth-Aven.
- ✧ When the Israelite army saw that they were vastly outnumbered, they begin to seek places to hide, some even crossing the Jordan to the land of Gilead.

**Saul made an unlawful sacrifice at Gilgal** [1 Samuel 13:7-14]

- ✧ Saul and his trembling army waited the seven days set by Samuel, but Samuel delayed his coming and the army was melting away from Saul.
  - ✧ Saul decided to do the sacrifice to the Lord himself in the absence of Samuel, though the only ones authorized to offer sacrifices to the Lord were the Priests and Prophets.
  - ✧ Samuel arrived after Saul finished the burnt offering, and Saul went to greet him.
- ✧ Samuel questioned Saul for overstepping his authority.
- ✧ Saul made his excuse:
  - ✧ Samuel was late, the Philistines were gathered at Michmash, and the army was scattering from Saul.
  - ✧ Saul felt compelled to offer the sacrifice to the Lord before the Philistines might come down upon them.
- ✧ Samuel rebuked 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.
- ✧ Consequences of the error:
  - ✧ 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.**"