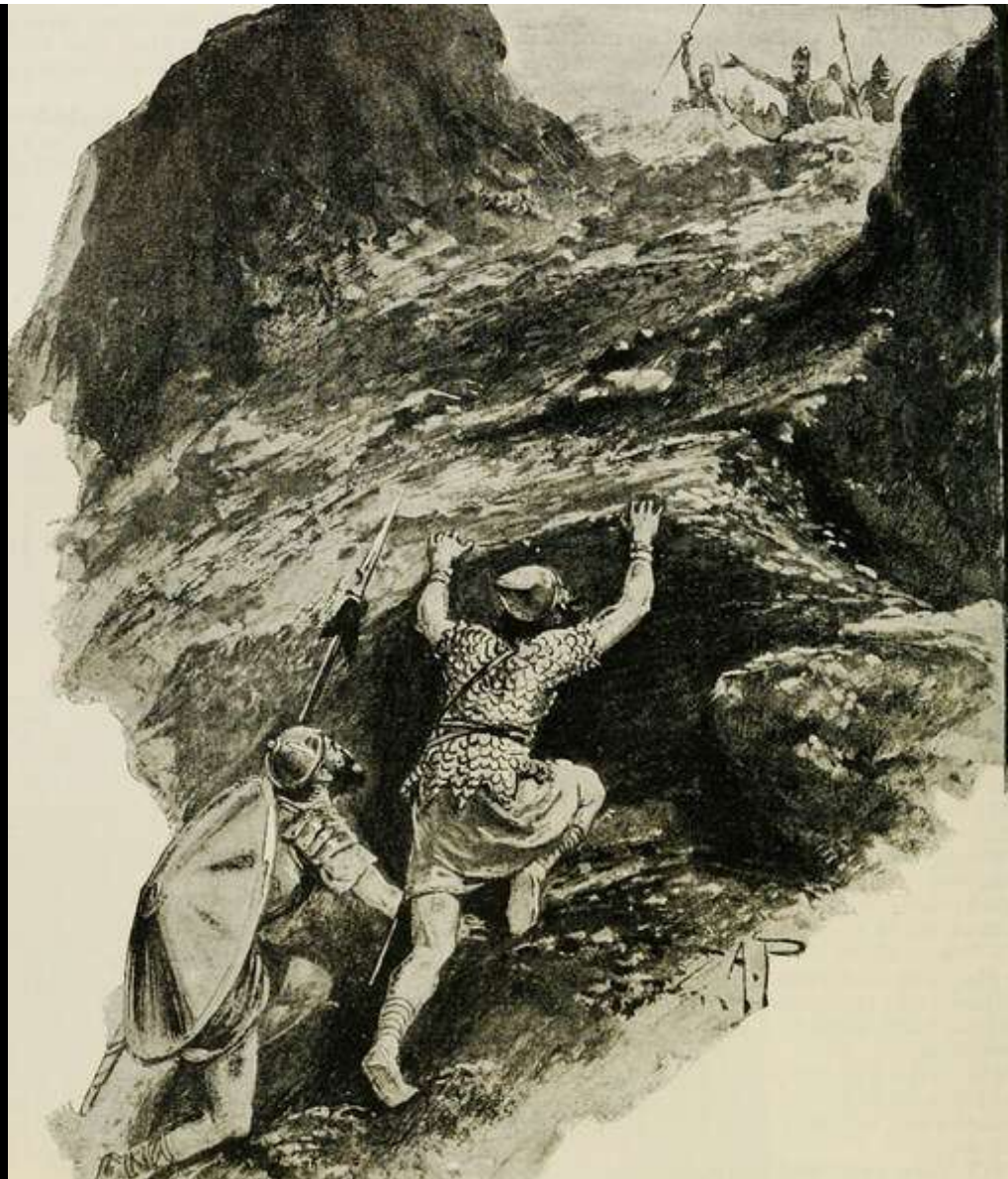
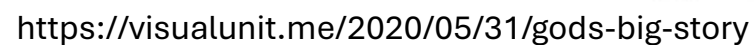


“...it may be that the
LORD will work for us.
For nothing restrains
the LORD from saving
by many or by few.”

1 Samuel 14:6

<https://www.richlydwelling.com/todays-reading/day-80-1-samuel-14-peace-to-die-and-peace-to-truly-live>





Why Did the People Ask for a King?

Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, “No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.” 1 Samuel 8:19-20

So Saul established his sovereignty over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the people of Ammon, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he harassed them. And he gathered an army and attacked the Amalekites, and delivered Israel from the hands of those who plundered them. 1 Samuel 14:47-48

Now there was fierce war with the Philistines all the days of Saul. And when Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him for himself. 1 Samuel 14:52 (NKJV)

PALESTINE DURING THE TIME OF DAVID AND SOLOMON

- Boundary of the empire
- Independent Philistia and Phoenicia
- Territory conquered by David



<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Philistine-people>

Philistine domination (13:19-22)



Jonathan attacks Philistines at Geba (13:3)



Philistine army = thousands (13:5)



1 SAMUEL 13:5

Israel army = 600 (13:15; 14:2)

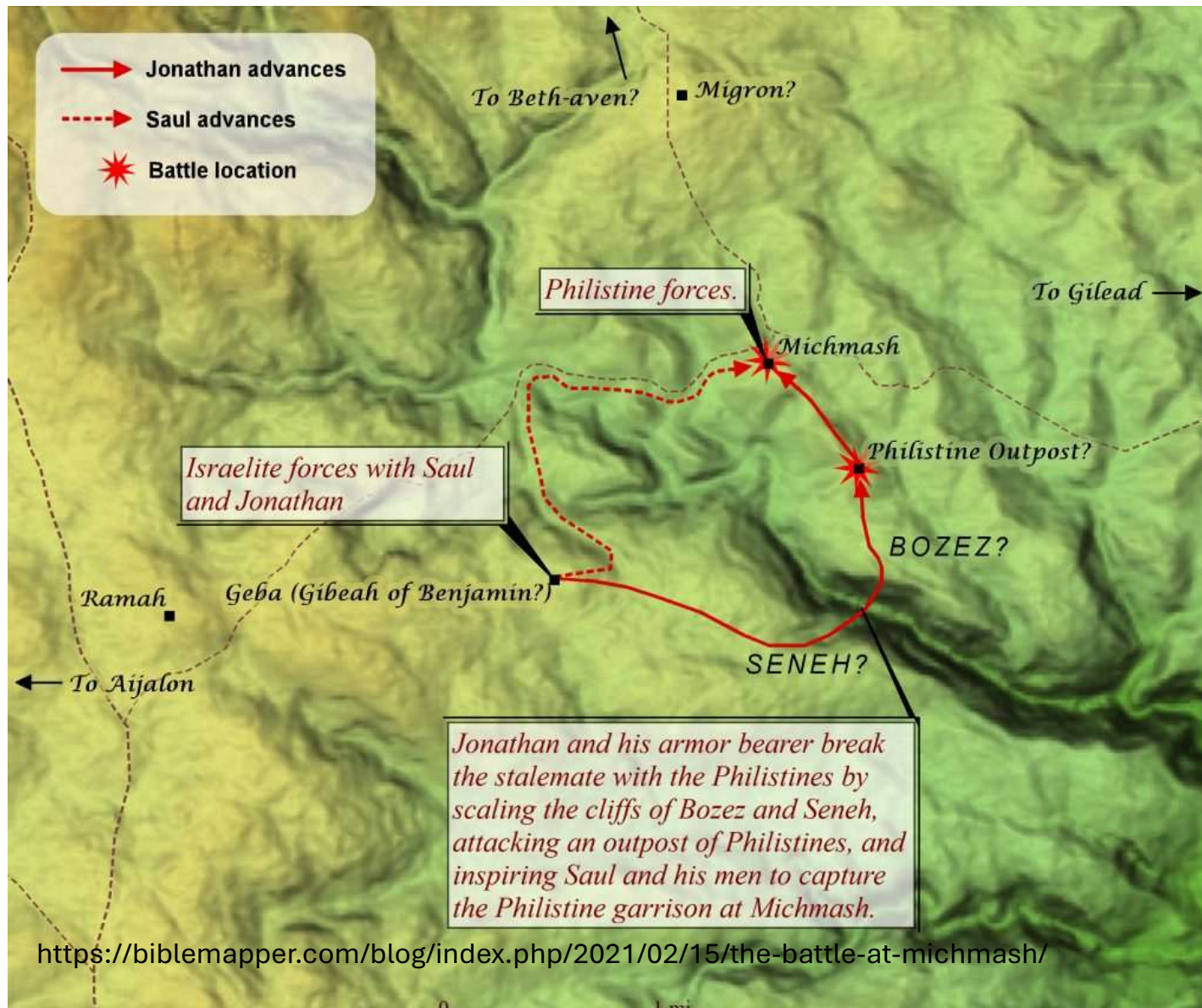




<https://biblestock.org/video/YzlsdG16cktNUmQyandtQ1A4dTVSQT09>



<https://www.waynestiles.com/blog/michmash-overwhelming-odds-and-your-powerful-god>



1 Samuel 13: 23 And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.

1 Samuel 14

1 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 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. 4 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. 6 Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, "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."

1 Samuel 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.” 8 Then Jonathan said, “Very well, let us cross over to these men, and we will show ourselves to them. 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. 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.” 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.” 12 Then the men of the garrison called to Jonathan and his armorbearer, 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 with his armorbearer after him; and they fell before Jonathan. And as he came after him, his armorbearer killed them. 14 That first slaughter which Jonathan and his armorbearer made was about twenty men within about half an acre of land.

1 Samuel 14

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. 16 Now the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and there was the multitude, melting away; and they went here and there. 17 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 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.” 20 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. 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.

1 Samuel 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.

23 So the LORD saved Israel that day, and the battle shifted to Beth Aven.

31 Now they had driven back the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon. So the people were very faint. (NKJV)

Big Idea:

**Let us seek how God
can use you and me
for His work**

Contrasts between Jonathan and Saul

Jonathan

- Action
- Relationship with God

Saul

- Inaction
- Religious

By Faith

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove His
faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and
death
And rise triumphant from the grave

By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name

Keith & Kristyn Getty

Prince Jonathan on showing up

Israel's very first prince lived at a time when God's people were facing a foe that was large, powerful, and in control of their country. If this description strikes you as all too familiar then it will be instructive to consider how Jonathan responded to such a foe.

For the first prince of Israel was a godly man. Right from the first time we read about him in the Bible, this young man captures our admiration. We admire him because he's such a firm believer in Yahweh.

He was also a stark contrast to his father.

The first king of Israel was just a regular political kind of a guy. For Saul, politics and power was one thing, and faith in the LORD was something separate from all of that. At crucial moments it was apparent that Saul was more about Saul than he was about God. It's not that Saul completely forgot about God but rather that God was never central for Saul. God was a factor in his life but only that – just one factor among many others such including the pride of Saul and the personal opinion of Saul.

When God is only a factor in our lives and not everything to us, then we're not really letting Him be God, are we? God does not allow Himself to only be one factor among many. He wishes to be supreme in our lives and He desires that his Word would be pre-eminent over our own human opinions.

WITHOUT FEAR

Jonathan, however, is so strongly aware of the presence and the power of God, he's not fearful of the Philistines who are controlling Israel. In 1 Samuel 14 we



<https://reformedperspective.ca/prince-jonathan-on-showing-up/>

“Expect great things
from God. Attempt
great things for God”

William Carey - 1792

Deuteronomy 20:1

When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up from the land of Egypt. 2 So it shall be, when you are on the verge of battle, that the priest shall approach and speak to the people. 3 And he shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them; 4 for the Lord your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.' (NKJV)

“So the LORD saved Israel that day” (1 Samuel 14:23)

Some reasons why Israel should not have won the battle:

- 600 Israelites vs. thousands of Philistines (13:5; 14:2)
- Israel had no weapons (13:19-22)
- Saul’s army was scared; some fled, some hid, some (maybe) defected (13:6-8; 14:21,22)
- Saul’s disobedience and loss of divine favour (13:8-14)

Contrasts between Jonathan and Saul

Jonathan

- Action
- Relationship with God
- Respected by others
- Thinks of others

Saul

- Inaction
- Religious
- Appeased by others
- Thinks of himself

Big Idea:

**Let us seek how God
can use you and me
for His work**