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Things do not look good for Israel. The King is not walking with God but walking in his own wisdom. His army has deserted him out of fear of their enemy's army. Samuel the Prophet is seeing what he had hoped he would not see in this king of flesh.

As we read these next few verses the question comes; are the actions of Jonathan a good thing or a bad thing? Should he have waited for the priests and his father Saul to understand if God was going to be with Jonathan on this incursion into Philistine camp? At what point does God want to be involved in our decision making? Before, during or after we act.

When God puts men or women in charge, and it is truly a move by God and not self-delusion, then God expects those men or women to act with courage, understanding they are on a mission from God. We are told that when we are weak God is strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of

Christ may rest upon me.

1 Samuel 14

1Now it came to pass upon a day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that *is* on the other side. But he told not his father.

Why not tell his father?

Likely as with most dad's Saul would say no for a lot of reasons.

1. Let's ask God first, unlikely as Saul was not known for that!
2. I don't want you to get hurt
3. I don't want you to die
4. I don't want you to be captured.
5. We need a plan.

All valid things a father is Saul's place would think.

Jonathan is the Prince of Israel as his father Saul had been anointed by God through Samuel the Priest, Prophet and last Judge of Israel. Saul had appointed his son as what we would consider today a General and was put in charge of 1000 soldiers of Israel. As a reminder an added 2,000 remained with Saul as recorded earlier in 1 Samuel. As Prince, Jonathan he would likely follow his father Saul as King if all went well.

How did we come to this point of the Philistines' overwhelming force amass in the area of Mishmash?

The Philistines had suffered a significant military loss with Saul as King, they became incensed with hatred.

1 Samuel 13:3 And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.

4 And all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.

Saul had the Hebrew trumpets blown throughout the land declaring victory over the Philistines. One philosophy is taking the win and go home. The second philosophy is poking your finger in the eye of your enemy to show them you are not afraid of them. The second appears to be Saul's approach.

2 And Saul tarried in the uttermost part of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron: and the people that were with him were about six hundred men;

Two issues here. Delaying on Saul's part and not stepping out in authority that God had anointed him with. The second issue is his military had gone from 3000 to 600 and those were scared to

death. They were faced with a massive enemy in the Philistines that numbered in the hundreds of thousands with thousands of chariots and calvary.

When God sees mankind rise-up against His chosen, He laughs.

Psalms 37: 12The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

13The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

14The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.

15Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

In these next couple of verses, we see some names that we have studied earlier in 1 Samuel. We go all the way back to Eli and his two sons Hophni and Phineas. Eli the High Priest failed God on a number of levels but perhaps the most egregious was not disciplining his own son's for their actions as Priests at Shilo. His son's took extraordinary evil power against Israel for their own personal evil uses.

1 Samuel 3: 10And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. 11And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. 12In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an

end. 13For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. 14And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

If you don't recall the things that Hophni and Phineas had done it is recorded in 1 Samuel 2.

These next few verses are a bit challenging for someone like me to track. For my benefit I had to make a list, if you got it right away good for you.

Ahiah was the great, grandson of Eli.

Eli
Phinehas
Ahitub
Ahiah

Ichabod is a name that gave us no clearer meaning of the lineage in my opinion. Ichabod is the brother of Ahitub. Ichabod means "God has departed".

The whole point is to show the continued Priestly lineage from Eli. But remember Eli's curse was that none of his lineage would ever see old age as a Priest. Ultimately Eli's lineage was removed from the Priesthood that fulfilled the sentence for Phinehas and Hophni's sins.

1 King 2: So Solomon thrust out Abiathar from being priest unto the LORD; that he might fulfil the word of the LORD, which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

3And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD'S priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone.

The names really reflect that Eli's lineage had continued to serve as Priests. The mention of the Priest wearing the ephod presumes under the circumstances that the Urim and Thummim were attached to the ephod as they were going to ask God if He would be with them in the battle against the Philistines.

The use of the Urim was to determine God's Will on a matter.

Numbers 27:21 He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who will seek counsel for him before the LORD by the judgment of the Urim. At his command, he and all the Israelites with him—the entire congregation—will go out and come in.”

4And between the passages, by which Jonathan sought to go over unto the Philistines' garrison, *there was a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side: and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh.*

Bozez means “slippery” or “shiny” and Seneh means “thorny”, so the point being that traversing this narrow valley puts Jonathan

between a slippery and thorny place. Some commentators draw a comparison for Believers in traversing life often between a slippery pathway and a thorny pathway.

5The forefront of the one was situate northward over against Michmash, and the other southward over against Gibeah.

These two cliffs bracketed the battlefield that Israel would face the Philistines. Jonathan by going with just his armor bearer made their visible footprint very small and went unnoticed.

6And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for *there is* no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

Unlike his father Saul that was vacillating over engaging the Philistines, Jonathan relied on God for his strength and wisdom.

7And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that *is* in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I *am* with thee according to thy heart.

Two hearts walking in coordination with God and His Will are invincible. God's strength is in our weakness. God wants us to get to the point that we only know how much we need God when God

is all we have. Believers reach that point early on about salvation. Will we as quickly reach that point when end times brings chaos in our lives?

8Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over unto *these* men, and we will discover ourselves unto them.

Meaning, they will reveal themselves once they have reached their target. That is generally not a tactic used in military actions. Usually by going undetected by their enemy a military unit would fall on their unsuspecting enemy to either capture or kill their enemy. Here Jonathan, says once they reach their target they will reveal their presence to the Philistine guards and allow God to deal with them in whatever way God chooses.

9If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them. 10But if they say thus, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the LORD hath delivered them into our hand: and this *shall be* a sign unto us.

This is similar to Gideon and the fleece when Jonathan sets a method communication between, he and God as to what he should do.

Judges 6: 36And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, 37Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the

floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said. 38And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water. 39And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. 40And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.

So, Jonathan tells his armor bearer as an inquiry to God, that once they reveal their presence to the Philistines that if they are told to stay where they are then they will wait. However, if the Philistines call them forward then God is with Jonathan and his armor bearer and they should go forward and slay the Philistines.

11And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves. 12And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armourbearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing. And Jonathan said unto his armourbearer, Come up after me: for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Israel.

As we saw the two peaks that bracketed this small canyon required Jonathan and his armor bearer to climb up. So before climbing up they made their presence known. The Philistines of course thought it would be a good idea to make sport of them and their countrymen for hiding from the Philistines. The Philistines obviously let their egos speak thinking they had two Israeli soldiers to kill. Little did they know that God obviously had put the very words on their hearts to let Jonathan know God was with him and his armor bearer.

13And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him.

We are not told the details of the fight but with God on your side it goes quite smoothly as it did for Jonathan and his armor bearer.

14And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armourbearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were an half acre of land, *which a yoke of oxen might plow.*

This is referred to as the “1st” slaughter which shows more is to come. The idea that 2 men can defeat 20 well-armed and trained soldiers is quite a feat. Compound that by having a relatively small area to have this battle in is even more relevant in how

God's intervention makes the odds of success purely within God power.

Jonathan had asked God to give him a sign by the mouth of his enemy to know whether or not God was going to be with Jonathan. Once the message was received Jonathan and his armor bearer did not hesitate.

Israel Defeats the Philistines

15And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling.

God was looking for even one man to have enough faith in God that God could move. When Jonathan and his armor bearer acted in such a way it opened up God's arsenal to confound and confuse the entire massive Philistine Army. Not only did God deliver the 20 Philistines into the hand of Jonathan he also sent a mental fear into the hearts of the massive well equipped and hardened soldiers of the Philistines. God compounded the fear in their hearts by bringing about a huge earth quake that shook them to their core and caused them to strike out at each other.

16And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went on beating down *one another*.

Saul's men at assigned observation posts reported that the Philistines were running away, terrified by what was happening to them through no other attack than Jonathan and his armor bearer. Not only did they flee but they attacked each other as they fled.

17Then said Saul unto the people that were with him, Number now, and see who is gone from us. And when they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armourbearer were not *there*.

Jonathan stepped out in faith. Saul the King wants to do a head count to see if he still has at least his 600. During the head count they discover Jonathan and his armor bearer are not present. We are not told at what point it becomes apparent to Saul what his son had accomplished while he stood wringing his hands.

Zachariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

18And Saul said unto Ahiah, Bring hither the ark of God. For the ark of God was at that time with the children of Israel.

Saul to his credit turns to God for advice and seeks the Ark to be brought out to the battlefield. Will Saul actually seek God's advice?

Saul likely knew that the Philistines definitely did not want the arc back in their presence after what happened last time, they took it. So the Arc was going to be safe and allow Saul to seek God's Wisdom and Strength.

19And it came to pass, while Saul talked unto the priest, that the noise that was in the host of the Philistines went on and increased: and Saul said unto the priest, Withdraw thine hand.

Saul started out on the right foot when the commotion started but as the panic among the Philistines grew Saul stopped the inquiry of God and moved out to attack without consulting with God. It seems to be a pattern developing with Saul which will ultimately lead to his downfall.

20And Saul and all the people that were with him assembled themselves, and they came to the battle: and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, *and there was a very great discomfiture.*

Can you imagine the scene of hundreds of thousands of your enemy fighting each other as you stand and watch. That was what happened. Saul came forward and saw what God was doing without any help from Saul or Israel other than two loyal and faithful servants Jonathan and his armor bearer.

21Moreover the Hebrews *that* were with the Philistines before that time, which went up with them into the camp *from the country* round about, even they also *turned* to be with the Israelites that were with Saul and Jonathan.

Over time there were many Israeli defectors that had left Israel and joined with the Philistines. The Philistines in their fleshly view were invincible so they changed allegiance to them.

As these deserters saw with their own eyes the God inflicted injury to the Philistines, they reversed course and rejoined their Israeli brothers and turned their swords against the Philistines.

22Likewise all the men of Israel which had hid themselves in mount Ephraim, *when* they heard that the Philistines fled, even they also followed hard after them in the battle.

All the cowards that had remained with Israel but hid themselves due to the coming battle crawled out of their caves and joined Saul in the attack on the fleeing Philistines.

23So the LORD saved Israel that day: and the battle passed over unto Bethaven.

Israel was afraid to retake the area of Bethaven and left it in the hands of the Philistines until this push by God began. Israel saw they could pursue the fleeing Philistines beyond Bethaven and retake what had been taken from them.

Jonathan Eats the Honey

24And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed *be* the man that eateth *any* food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted *any* food.

Saul again ventures into areas he has no business doing. Saul makes this about him, when he says, “that I may be avenged of my enemies” “**I**” and “**my**”. All personal for Saul without regard to the God of Israel. God warns us not to make any curses or vows that He Himself has not declared. For Saul to rashly declare a vow that God had not told him to say causes all kinds of trouble.

To fast is a Godly thing but only at God’s direction, it should never be forced on anyone. If it is then it becomes just like this a personal affront lead likely by ego.

Proverbs 20:25 *It is a snare to say rashly, “It is holy,” and to reflect only after making vows.*

Joel 2:12 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

25And all *they of* the land came to a wood; and there was honey upon the ground. 26And when the people were come into the wood, behold, the honey dropped; but no man put his hand to his mouth: for the people feared the oath.

The King had ordered that no one eat from vs 24

“...Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies.”

27But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened.

Clearly Jonathan had not heard the command, so he ate as he had fought hard and won a great victory.

28Then answered one of the people, and said, Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed *be* the man that eateth *any* food this day. And the people were faint.

The people were hungry and failing due to their hunger but out of fear of the King they did not eat.

29Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.

Most commentators put this in a category of Jonathan respectfully pointing out his father had caused a disturbance in the land and when the people sided with the King and fought they did right.

It strikes me as a bit of a challenge by Jonathan as to common sense in that how much better the people could fight if they had nutrition and were not starving from the battle. Again Saul made this oath and curse out of pride, not as a tribute to God, nor did God ask for it.

30How much more, if haply the people had eaten freely to day of the spoil of their enemies which they found? For had there not been now a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?

Feed the troops is as central to war fighters as is providing them with weapons and training. To do otherwise is a recipe for disaster.

31And they smote the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon: and the people were very faint.

A leader can only deprive his troops of food for so long before human nature in the form of starvation overtakes the senses and

people will do anything to be able to eat. Saul is now faced with this dilemma.

32And the people flew upon the spoil, and took sheep, and oxen, and calves, and slew *them* on the ground: and the people did eat *them* with the blood.

My understanding of the progression to this point was all Saul's doing. Forbidding his troops to eat until "he" is avenged. Self-serving dictatorship is not what God had called for when he appointed Saul as King. It was to be Saul consulting God on every detail of ruling the nation of Israel just as the High Priests and Judges had done. Saul appears to have taken his authority too far and put himself and his desires above God's.

33Then they told Saul, saying, Behold, the people sin against the LORD, in that they eat with the blood. And he said, Ye have transgressed: roll a great stone unto me this day.

God had established in His Law some very specific requirements for Israel to do before eating anything whether captured or raised. The key was to drain the blood from any animal before it could be eaten, and God had told Israel the "life is in the blood" and the blood and life belong to God.

Leviticus 17: 10And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that

*eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people. **11**For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. **12**Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood. **13**And whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust.*

Let's not forget what started this mess. It was Saul telling Israel that no one could eat until "he" was avenged. Saul overlooks his role in this and now relies strictly on the Law which is of course what had to happen. So how does Saul now deal with this mess he started?

Now this is a good thing that Saul does and that is point out the obvious sin being committed and search for a Lawful means to correct the sin of the people regardless of who caused the problem.

34And Saul said, Disperse yourselves among the people, and say unto them, Bring me hither every man his ox, and every man his sheep, and slay *them* here, and eat; and sin not against the LORD in eating with the blood. And all the people brought every man his ox with him that night, and slew *them* there.

When these nations including Israel went to war, they would bring herds of animals with them to feed the soldiers. So, each soldier had access to his own food and in this case either an ox or a sheep. Saul tells them to do this preparation properly according to the Law so an altar is set up in the field to sacrifice these animals first as a sacrifice to God and secondly as a means of food for themselves.

35And Saul built an altar unto the LORD: the same was the first altar that he built unto the LORD.

Saul had been King now for several years and this is the first time he sought to build and alter to God. As we have seen up until now Saul would act impetuously without seeking God's Wisdom or guidance. Unlike his own son Jonathan that would seek God's direction and wait until he knew what God wanted him to do.

36And Saul said, Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and spoil them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them. And they said, Do whatsoever seemeth good unto thee. Then said the priest, Let us draw near hither unto God.

King Saul's ego seems overwhelming to common sense and to following God's Law and direction. Saul had just called Israel to

walk in the Law and now his impetuous desire to fulfill his ego wants to send off his army without asking God and kill everyone.

Fortunately, finally a priest steps in and reminds Saul of the order of things. Finally, Saul relents and agrees to seek God's Wisdom and Favor.

The People Save Jonathan

37And Saul asked counsel of God, Shall I go down after the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into the hand of Israel? But he answered him not that day.

Saul was willing to ask God for guidance but in his heart demands an answer immediately.

38And Saul said, Draw ye near hither, all the chief of the people: and know and see wherein this sin hath been this day. 39For, as the LORD liveth, which saveth Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die. But *there was* not a man among all the people *that* answered him.

Saul just seems to make one radical oath after another. He now declares that even if it is his own son Jonathan that sinned that he would die for that sin. No one in Israel said anything even though they knew it was indeed Jonathan that had violated Saul's order of no eating until vengeance was done.

40Then said he unto all Israel, Be ye on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side. And the people said unto Saul, Do what seemeth good unto thee. 41Therefore Saul said unto the LORD God of Israel, Give a perfect *lot*. And Saul and Jonathan were taken: but the people escaped.

Saul boldly puts he and Jonathan against all of Israel and draws lots feeling quite sure that the lot would not fall to he and his son but to someone of the tribes of Israel. When the lots were drawn it fell to Saul and Jonathan. Imagine how his heart must have sunk with that revelation.

42And Saul said, Cast *lots* between me and Jonathan my son. And Jonathan was taken.

43Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what thou hast done. And Jonathan told him, and said, I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in mine hand, *and*, lo, I must die. 44And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan.

So, God puts Saul in a predicament that Saul created himself. He now is faced with having to kill his own son to fulfill his oath.

Saul has surmised that someone in Israel has committed a sin in the house of Israel and that is why God will not communicate with Saul on his request for Wisdom to pursue the Philistines. He cannot see his own sin of ego and selfishness. God will use the people of Israel to point out Saul's errors.

It amazes me that Saul is so quick to go to the Law but does not understand God's Grace even at this time. Did Saul not know of God's provision of Grace for a sin committed when the sinner did not know he committed a sin?

Leviticus 5: 1And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity. 2Or if a soul touch any unclean thing, whether it be a carcase of an unclean beast, or a carcase of unclean cattle, or the carcase of unclean creeping things, and if it be hidden from him; he also shall be unclean, and guilty. 3Or if he touch the uncleanness of man, whatsoever uncleanness it be that a man shall be defiled withal, and it be hid from him; when he knoweth of it, then he shall be guilty. 4Or if a soul swear, pronouncing with his lips to do evil, or to do good, whatsoever it be that a man shall pronounce with an oath, and it be hid from him; when he knoweth of it, then he shall be guilty in one of these. 5And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing: 6And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD for his sin which he hath sinned, a female from the flock, a lamb or a kid of the goats, for a sin offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for him concerning his sin.

The people knew where this was leading with Saul's rash oath and now Saul's ego has caught up with him. So, the people just put more pressure on Saul and point out what or who at God's direction brought about this great victory. It was Jonathan.

45And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.

The people stood up to Saul. They knew he had done a dumb thing and even though he was their King they were not going to let him kill the very man whom God used, not on their watch were they going to allow Jonathan to be killed.

46Then Saul went up from following the Philistines: and the Philistines went to their own place.

Saul finally listened and when the Lord did not respond to his request to pursue the Philistines Saul did not pursue them. The Philistines went back to their homes. If Saul would have acted as a true King and followed God's plans many things would not have befallen Israel. When a leader fails to follow God and bad things happen, the leader has to repent and get back in line with God through obedience. The same is true with each of us. We can go our own way but troubles will come.

Saul's Victories

47So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he

vexed them. 48And he gathered an host, and smote the Amalekites, and delivered Israel out of the hands of them that spoiled them.

We have to assume that Saul relented in his stubbornness and followed after God for the most part, complying with God's plan and working through Samuel the Prophet and Judge. I came to that conclusion based on the vs 47 and 48. We know that God would protect a remnant of Israel for His Names Sake. God has never allowed His Name to be removed from the thoughts of man nor has He allowed His Word to not come about. Satan's only hope is to get people to focus on anything but God All Mighty. Satan has done that through many means of getting man to worship anything other than God. Satan has had great success in this with the exception of those who Love Him more than anything else. Believers belong to God, few that find that Love of God through a relationship with Jesus His Son.

Isaiah 48: 11For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

Ezekiel 36: 22Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. 23And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

Saul was blessed with five children that we are told about.

Saul's Family

49Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan, and Ishui, and Melchishua: and the names of his two daughters were *these*; the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal:

An amazing son in Jonathan, who loved God and followed after God's Heart.

According to Strong's Concordance their names mean:

Jonathan means, "the Lord has given".

Ishui means, "level".

Melchishua means, "my King is wealth".

Saul's first daughter Merab mean, "increase"._

Saul's second daughter is Michal and means, "brook"

The story of this family has the highest esteem of love of God and friend in David. It contains the love in marriage of Michal to David whom David loved. In the end all three sons would die at Mt Gilboa with their father Saul.

Michal would protect David from her father and in the end marry David. Her love of David would turn to hate as she despised his dancing in the streets before the Arc. A deeper meaning in that is by being close to someone who loves, and Believes in God does not translate into that other person being a Believer and saved.

50And the name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam, the daughter of Ahimaaz: and the name of the captain of his host was Abner, the son of Ner, Saul's uncle.

Two interesting divergent names and meaning. Saul's wife was Ahinoam, meaning, "my brother is delight". Saul's wife was the daughter of Ahimaaz which means, "my brother is wrath".

Abner means, "my father is a lamp", his father was Ner, which means, "lamp" and Ner was Saul's uncle.

51And Kish was the father of Saul; and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel.

Kish, Saul's father means, "bow".

52And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.

The warning that God had given Israel when they chose a king of flesh over the God of eternity would repeat itself throughout Israel's history. The strong men of Israel were taken into the army, and many died on the field of battle. Saul never knew peace and his family would suffer the sin that he committed as father and king. Death and hatred would pursue Saul and his family. There were examples of righteousness within Saul's family as in Jonathan and his brothers. Micha had signs of righteousness in her love for David but in the end, hatred devoured her.

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James