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YouTube Prayer Link

God's Word is always in mind, without exception

Summary of 1 Samuel 13

In 1 Samuel 13, two years after Saul's accession to the throne, the Israelites and the Philistines went to war. Saul gathered an army of 3,000 men at Gilgal, but while he waited for Samuel's sacrifice, Samuel did not arrive on time. Therefore, Saul decided to sacrifice the sacrifice himself, which was something that God forbade kings to do.

When Samuel arrived, he rebuked Saul for his actions and prophesied that his throne would be weakened as a result. After Samuel left, Saul led an army against the Philistines, but only 2,000 of the army remained, and the rest fled. A small force led by Saul and his son Jonathan attacked a Philistine outpost and attracted the attention of the Philistines, causing the entire army to besiege Saul and the Israelites.

The battle was so hard that the Israelites were forced into caves, and the Philistines kept chasing them. Saul waited for Samuel to come and help them seek God's help. When Samuel arrived, he offered the burnt offerings on the burning altar to God and turned to God for help in the power of God to help the people of Israel overcome their enemies.

God answered Samuel's prayer by unleashing a huge thunderstorm that terrified the Philistines and caused them to begin confusion and rout. The people of Israel took the opportunity to attack, pursue the enemy and destroy their camps. In this battle, the Israelites were victorious by killing the Philistines, capturing their belongings.

Although the Israelites were victorious, Saul's actions went against God's will and his throne was weakened. The battle also demonstrated God's power and miracles, proving that He was still paying attention to the people of Israel.

The Bible contains many chapters, some of which are considered to be commands or instructions from God. Here are some Bible passages that are often seen as revelation or guidance from God, note that these are just a few, not all:

Exodus Chapter 20 - The Gift of the Ten Verses

Leviticus 11 - The Purification of Eating and Drinking

Exodus 25-31 - Instructions on the construction of the sanctuary and the ministry of the sanctuary

Exodus 35-40 - About the practice of sanctuary building

Deuteronomy 6 - The commandments concerning the love of God

Deuteronomy 10 - The Circumcision of the Heart

Isaiah 1 Chapter - Lessons on True Worship

Matthew 5-7 - Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, including teachings on ethics and behavior

John 14-17 - Jesus' conversation with the disciples contains some guidance for believers

Colossians 3 - Paul's teachings on the Christian life

These are just a few examples, and there are many other passages in the Bible that are seen as divine revelation or guidance by people of different faiths. Believers may emphasize different chapters depending on their faith traditions and teachings.

We pray together

Beloved Heavenly Father, we are here to gather before you and humbly ask for Your blessings and guidance. Lead us to follow your commands and instructions, according to your will. May your wisdom fill our hearts so that we can discern good from evil and follow your righteous path.

Lord, you are a God of mercy, and your mercy knows no bounds. Give us the strength to obey your will and do your commands. May your Spirit fill us and guide us on the path of righteousness and be your faithful servants.

Please lead us personally in every step of our lives. May your grace flow among us so that we can be pillars to one another and care for one another. Let the glory of our lives be to you and live for your kingdom.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

1 SAMUEL

Chapter 13

1Sa. 13:1 Saul was thirty [A few late manuscripts of the Septuagint; Hebrew does not have thirty.] years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel for forty-[See the round number in Acts 13:21; Hebrew does not have forty-.]two years.

1Sa. 13:2 Saul [Or and when he had reigned over Israel for two years, 2 he] chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at Michmash and in the hill country of Bethel,

and a thousand were with Jonathan at Gibeah in Benjamin.

The rest of the men he sent back to their homes.

1Sa. 13:3 Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba, and the Philistines heard about it. Then Saul had the trumpet blown throughout the land and said, "Let the Hebrews hear!"

1Sa. 13:4 So all Israel heard the news: "Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become an offence to the Philistines." And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal.

1Sa. 13:5 The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand [Some Septuagint manuscripts and Syriac; Hebrew thirty thousand] chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Michmash, east of Beth Aven.

1Sa. 13:6 When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns.

1Sa. 13:7 Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear.

1Sa. 13:8 He waited for seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter.

657

1Sa. 13:9 So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." [Traditionally peace offerings] And Saul offered up the burnt offering.

1Sa. 13:10 Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

1Sa. 13:11 "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash,

1Sa. 13:12 I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD's favour.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."

1Sa. 13:13 "You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.

1Sa. 13:14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command."

1Sa. 13:15 Then Samuel left Gilgal [Hebrew; Septuagint Gilgal and went

his way; the rest of the people went after Saul to meet the army, and they went out of Gilgal] and went up to Gibeah in Benjamin, and Saul counted the men who were with him.

They numbered about six hundred.

1Sa. 13:16 Saul and his son Jonathan and the men with them were staying in Gibeah [Two Hebrew manuscripts; most Hebrew manuscripts Geba, a variant of Gibeah] of Benjamin, while the Philistines camped at Michmash.

1Sa. 13:17 Raiding parties went out from the Philistine camp in three detachments. One turned towards Ophrah in the vicinity of Shual,

1Sa. 13:18 another towards Beth Horon, and the third towards the borderland overlooking the Valley of Zeboim facing the desert.

658

1Sa. 13:19 Not a blacksmith could be found in the whole land of Israel, because the Philistines had said, "Otherwise the Hebrews will make swords or spears!"

1Sa. 13:20 So all Israel went down to the Philistines to have their ploughshares, mattocks, axes and sickles [Septuagint; Hebrew ploughshares] sharpened.

1Sa. 13:21 The price was two thirds of a shekel [Hebrew pim; that is, about 1/4 ounce (about 8 grams)] for sharpening ploughshares and mattocks, and a third of a shekel [That is, about 1/8 ounce (about 4 grams)] for sharpening forks and axes and for repointing goads.

1Sa. 13:22 So on the day of the battle not a soldier with Saul and Jonathan had a sword or spear in his hand; only Saul and his son Jonathan had them.

1Sa. 13:23 Now a detachment of Philistines had gone out to the pass at Michmash.

Chapter 13 begins with Saul, the first king of Israel, ruling for two years. He chooses 3,000 men from Israel and 2,000 from Judah to be part of his army, and they set out to fight against the Philistines. Saul's son, Jonathan, also leads a separate attack against the Philistines and defeats them.

The Philistines then gather their forces to fight against Israel, and Saul gathers his army at Gilgal. Samuel had told Saul to wait seven days for Samuel to arrive and offer a burnt offering to God before going into battle, but Samuel does not arrive on time. As the days pass, the Israelites become afraid and begin to scatter.

Saul, desperate to seek God's favor, takes matters into his own hands and offers the burnt offering himself, even though he is not a priest. Samuel arrives soon after, and when he sees

what Saul has done, he rebukes him for not waiting for him to arrive and for disobeying God's command. Samuel tells Saul that because of his disobedience, his kingdom will not endure and God has chosen another man to be king.

Despite Saul's mistake, the battle against the Philistines continues, and the Israelites are able to defeat them. However, the Philistines still have a large army, and they continue to threaten Israel. Chapter 13 highlights the importance of obedience to God's commands and the consequences of disobedience. Saul's impatience and disobedience ultimately cost him his kingdom, as God had chosen another man to be king. The chapter also shows the ongoing conflict between the Israelites and the Philistines, which will continue throughout much of the book of 1 Samuel.

Here are some important verses from chapter 13 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 13:5 - "The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikdash, east of Beth Aven."

1 Samuel 13:11-12 - "'What have you done?' asked Samuel. Saul replied, 'When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikdash, I thought, "Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor." So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.'"

1 Samuel 13:14 - "But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

These verses highlight the beginning of Saul's downfall as king of Israel. The Philistines, a long-time enemy of Israel, assemble a large army, and Saul becomes fearful and impatient, making a hasty decision to offer a burnt offering to God without waiting for Samuel. When Samuel arrives, he rebukes Saul for his disobedience and announces that God has sought out a man after His own heart to replace Saul as king. These verses show the importance of obedience to God's commands and the consequences of disobedience.

1 Samuel chapter 13 continues the narrative of Saul's reign as king of Israel and explores themes of faith, impatience, and the consequences of disobedience.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of faith in God's timing. Saul, facing a threatening Philistine army, becomes anxious as the Israelite troops begin to scatter. Samuel had instructed Saul to wait for seven days for him to arrive and offer sacrifices before going into battle. However, when Samuel does not arrive as expected, Saul grows impatient and takes matters into his own hands. He offers the burnt offering himself, which is a violation of God's commandments.

This chapter highlights the importance of trusting in God's timing and relying on Him in moments of uncertainty. Saul's impatience reveals a lack of faith in God's provision and guidance. It serves as a reminder that we are called to trust in God's timing, even when circumstances are challenging or unclear. It challenges us to wait patiently on God, seeking His wisdom and direction rather than taking matters into our own hands.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 13 emphasizes the consequences of disobedience. Samuel arrives just as Saul finishes offering the sacrifice, and he rebukes Saul for his impatience and disobedience. Samuel informs Saul that because of his actions, his kingdom will not endure, and God will raise up a king after His own heart. Saul's disobedience brings about severe consequences for himself and his reign.

This chapter highlights the importance of obedience to God's commands. It reminds us that obedience is a vital aspect of our relationship with God and has real-life consequences. It calls us to carefully follow God's instructions and to align our actions with His will, understanding that disobedience can lead to negative outcomes and hinder God's purposes in our lives.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 13 showcases the contrast between Saul's impatience and Samuel's steadfastness in his role as God's prophet. Samuel's timely arrival and rebuke serve as a reminder of God's faithfulness and the importance of remaining faithful to our own callings and responsibilities.

This chapter encourages us to remain steadfast in our own roles and callings, even in the face of challenging circumstances or delays. It reminds us that God's timing is perfect, and His faithfulness is unwavering. It calls us to trust in His guidance and to remain faithful to the tasks and responsibilities He has entrusted to us.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 13 brings forth reflections on faith in God's timing, the consequences of disobedience, and the importance of steadfastness in our callings. It reminds us of the significance of trusting in God's timing, the importance of obedience to His commands, and the need for faithfulness in our roles and responsibilities. May we grow in faith, obedience, and steadfastness as we seek to align our lives with God's will.