

Strength through Delegation Israel Routs Philistines *The King and the People Series*

Dr. Goodluck Ofoegbu
Prof. Oby Ofoegbu
Banking Blessings Ministry
San Antonio, Texas
USA

What We Will Learn

- Military structure under King Saul
- Delegated authority to commanders
- Commander Jonathan attacked Philistines
- By faith of God only
- Israel under Saul joined the attack
- Routed Philistine army
- Favor through Jonathan won victory for Israel
- 1 Samuel 14:1–23

bankingblessing.org

Delegation of Authority Under Saul

- King Saul appointed two commanders
 - Saul with two battalions
 - Jonathan with one battalion
- Authority of battalion commander
 - Initiate battle without consultation
 - Join battle initiated by another commander
- 1 Samuel 13:2–4

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 13 (NIV)

2 Saul chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at Mikmash 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.

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 13 (NIV)

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!"

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

bankingblessing.org

Jonathan Attacks Philistines

- Exercised authority as battalion commander
- Set out to attack Philistines
- Without consultation
- Alone with his armor bearer
- And faith of God
- 1 Samuel 14:1–5

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

1 One day Jonathan son of Saul said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But he did not tell his father.

2 Saul was staying on the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree in Migron. With him were about six hundred men,

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

3 among whom was Ahijah, who was wearing an ephod. He was a son of Ichabod's brother Ahitub son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the Lord's priest in Shiloh. No one was aware that Jonathan had left.

4 On each side of the pass that Jonathan intended to cross to reach the Philistine outpost was a cliff; one was called Bozez and the other Seneh.

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

5 One cliff stood to the north toward Mikmash, the other to the south toward Geba.

bankingblessing.org

By Faith of God Only

- Israel's army was over-matched by Philistines
- Soldiers were demoralized and in hiding
- Had no weapon
- Jonathan sought God's guidance
- To attack Philistines
- Prayed for guidance with specific sign
- 1 Samuel 13:16–22 [Not read in session]
- 1 Samuel 14:6–10

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

6 Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few."

7 "Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

8 Jonathan said, "Come on, then; we will cross over toward them and let them see us.

9 If they say to us, 'Wait there until we come to you,' we will stay where we are and not go up to them.

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

10 But if they say, 'Come up to us,' we will climb up, because that will be our sign that the Lord has given them into our hands. "

- Jonathan prayed for God's guidance
- Asked for guidance through a specific sign
- Based on faith
- God will grant Israel favor through him

bankingblessing.org

God Approved—Jonathan Attacks

- Jonathan received God's guidance
- With sign as he prayed
- Launched attack successfully
- 1 Samuel 14:11–16

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

11 So both of them showed themselves to the Philistine outpost. "Look!" said the Philistines. "The Hebrews are crawling out of the holes they were hiding in."

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

12 The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armor-bearer, "Come up to us and we'll teach you a lesson. " So Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Climb up after me; the Lord has given them into the hand of Israel."

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

13 Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him.

14 In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre.

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

15 Then panic struck the whole army—those in the camp and field, and those in the outposts and raiding parties—and the ground shook. It was a panic sent by God.

16 Saul's lookouts at Gibeah in Benjamin saw the army melting away in all directions.

bankingblessing.org

Saul Leads Israel to Join Battle

- Jonathan initiated attack
 - Because he had authority
 - And faith
- Saul determined a battle was on
- Led Israel to join battle
- Israel routed Philistines
- 1 Samuel 14:17–23

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

17 Then Saul said to the men who were with him, "Mustering the forces and see who has left us." When they did, it was Jonathan and his armor-bearer who were not there.

18 Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ark of God." (At that time it was with the Israelites.)

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

19 While Saul was talking to the priest, the tumult in the Philistine camp increased more and more. So Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand."

20 Then Saul and all his men assembled and went to the battle. They found the Philistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords.

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

21 Those Hebrews who had previously been with the Philistines and had gone up with them to their camp went over to the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.

22 When all the Israelites who had hidden in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were on the run, they joined the battle in hot pursuit.

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

23 So on that day the Lord saved Israel, and the battle moved on beyond Beth Aven.

- God saved Israel
- By favor granted through Jonathan
- Jonathan's favor overcame Saul's disfavor
- Through military structure that delegated authority to commanders
- Israel gained strength through delegation

bankingblessing.org

Delegation in Government

- Government through hierarchy of branches
- Specific authority and responsibilities
- Branches interact to support their functions
- Leaders and staff understand hierarchy
 - Branch responsibilities
 - Governing rules and regulations
- Good rulers honor the hierarchy
- Bad rulers seek to undercut the hierarchy

bankingblessing.org

What We Learned

- Israel gained strength
- Through military structure that delegated authority to commanders
- Favor granted through one commander
- Illustrates benefits of delegating authority
 - For government administration
 - Military
 - Every human organization

bankingblessing.org