



1 Samuel 14:1-3, *One day Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armor, “Come, let us go over to the Philistine garrison on the other side.” But he did not tell his father. Saul was staying in the outskirts of Gibeah in the pomegranate cave at Migron. The people who were with him were about six hundred men, including Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod’s brother, son of Phinehas, son of Eli, the priest of the LORD in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people did not know that Jonathan had gone.*

- ✳ **Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod’s brother:** the nephew of “no glory” with a no glory king (see chapters 13, 15, and 16) doing something not glorious at all...
- ✳ **Staying...in the pomegranate cave:** “staying” can also be translated as “sitting” or “tarried”; to tarry is to loiter or linger longer than expected.
- ✳ **Pomegranate cave:** In Hebrew it just says “pomegranate”; ESV uses “cave” because it’s likely this is the same place as the cave called pomegranate that the Benjamites used for hiding in Judges chapter 20. Many other translations use “tree”.

IMPOSSIBLY DIFFICULT

1 Samuel 13:22, *So on the day of the battle there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people with Saul and Jonathan, but Saul and Jonathan his son had them.*

- ✳ Only two people in the Israelite army have swords because the Philistines have not allowed Israel to have a blacksmith.

1 Samuel 13:5, *And the Philistines mustered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude.*

- ✳ **Troops like the sand on the seashore:** compared to the army of the Israelites that have dwindled down to 600.

1 Samuel 14:1, *One day Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armor, “Come, let us go over to the Philistine garrison on the other side.” But he did not tell his father.*

- ✳ Important to note that Jonathan is not insulated at all from what’s happening. He is seeing and experiencing the exact same situation as Saul.

IMPOSSIBLY DIFFICULT

1 Samuel 14:6-7, *Jonathan said to the young man who carried 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 can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few.” And his armor-bearer said to him, “Do all that is in your heart. Do as you wish. Behold, I am with you heart and soul.”*

- ✳ **It may be:** This is Jonathan not being presumptuous that he knows what God’s plans are. *If* God could do something is not in question at all for Jonathan—he is uncertain about the *when* and the *how*.

- ✳ **Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few:** Jonathan allows someone else to inform him of what needs to be done by looking beyond the situation and remembering what he knows about God.
- ✳ An impossible plan because it involves just the two of them against the Philistines.
- ✳ A difficult plan because of the route that they would need to take...

1 Samuel 14:4-5, *Within the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistine garrison, there was a rocky crag on the one side and a rocky crag on the other side. The name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. The one crag rose on the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba.*

- ✳ **Rocky crag:** Other translations use the word “cliff”.
- ✳ **Bozez:** Translated into English as most likely “shiny” or “slippery”.
- ✳ **Seneh:** Translated into English as most likely “thorny”.

SALVATION OF GOD

1 Samuel 14:13-15, *Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, and his armor-bearer after him. And they fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer killed them after him. And that first strike, which Jonathan and his armor-bearer made, killed about twenty men within as it were half a furrow's length in an acre of land. And there was a panic in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and even the raiders trembled, the earth quaked, and it became a very great panic.*

1 Samuel 14:20, *Then Saul and all the people who were with him rallied and went into the battle. And behold, every Philistine's sword was against his fellow, and there was very great confusion.*

1 Samuel 14:23, *So the LORD saved Israel that day.*

- ✳ **Raiders trembled, the earth quaked, and it became a very great panic:** This was not Jonathan!
- ✳ When Saul and his men get there, the battle is already being won.
- ✳ **Philistine's sword was against his fellow:** If Israel didn't have weapons, then God would use Philistine swords against the Philistines.

The main difference between Saul and Jonathan is who they trusted

- ✳ Saul looked to himself, his resources, and his own understanding to decide what to do.
- ✳ Jonathan's overall outlook was faith in the Lord and that He would provide unhindered victory.
- ✳ Jonathan knew that God was capable of unhindered salvation even though he couldn't see it. How?

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy: *See the stories of the Patriarchs, Joseph in Egypt, Moses being sent to Pharaoh, of God's deliverance out of slavery, the parting of the Red Sea, defeating the army of Egypt, providing for His people in the wilderness, etc.*

Judges chapters 6 and 7, *See the story of Gideon who God used to deliver His people from an impossibly difficult situation with only 300 soldiers armed with trumpets, pots, and torches.*

In what area of your life do you need to look to Jesus?

When you look at Jesus, what do you know about Him? Is what you know supported by how He has revealed Himself in Scripture?

Is He asking you to take a difficult step of faith that could only be supported by who He is and His presence in your life?