

Lesson 19: Saul's Rejection

1 Samuel 13-15

4th and 5th Grade Class

Jordan Park church of Christ

Saul began his reign at 40 years of age and was king for the next 32 years.

Saul chose 3000 men from Israel and the rest of the people he sent home. Jonathan, Saul's son, defeated the garrison of the Philistines that were at Geba and Saul blew a trumpet so everyone could hear. The Philistines prepared for a fight with more chariots, horsemen and troops. When the Israelites saw this, they were afraid and hid anywhere they could. Saul went to Gilgal and the rest of the people followed him. He waited 7 days as he was told by Samuel but Samuel didn't come. Saul gave a burnt offering to the Lord instead of waiting for Samuel. When Samuel came, he told Saul he was foolish and did not do what the Lord commanded. The Lord would have established a kingdom forever but now it will not continue.

Saul, Jonathan and 600 men went to Geba while the Philistines were in Michmash. Raiders from the Philistine came came out in three groups and went in opposite directions. There was no blacksmith in Israel so all of the Israelites had to use the Philistines to produce sword or spears and to sharpen their tools. This is requiring the Israelites to rely on the Philistines. Only Saul and Jonathan had swords, not the rest of the people.

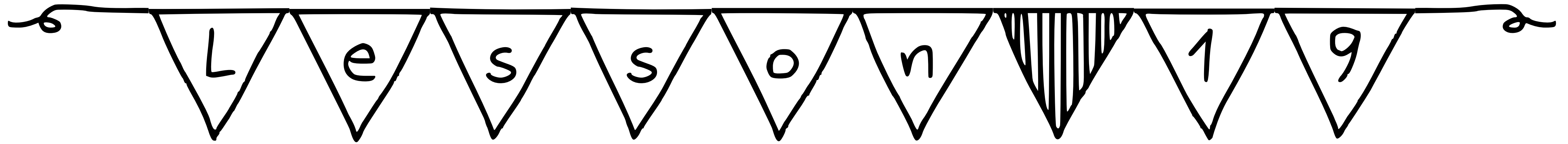
One day Jonathan asked his armor bearer (this would be like his assistant) to go over to where the Philistines army was. Saul was sitting outside the city under a tree but he did not know Jonathan had gone.

Jonathan decides to go to the Philistines and trust in God and see what happens. First he does a test with a Philistine guard. "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. But if they say thus, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up." (14:9-10) When they see the Philistines, they tell Jonathan and the other man to come up to them. The two men climb up and the armor bearer killed them.

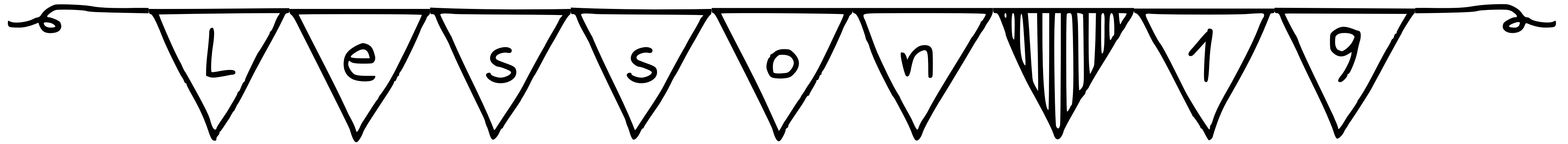
The Earth quaked and scared the Philistines. When Saul heard of the quaking, he discovered that Jonathan and his armor bearer were not there. Saul gathered his army and went to fight the confused Philistines. The Israelites won the battle because of Jonathan's trust in the Lord.

Saul told the people not to eat anything for the whole day or they would be cursed. The rest of the people obeyed but Jonathan had not heard about what Saul had said. There was honey on the ground that was a gift from God and Jonathan ate it. The people slaughtered animals and ate them without draining it of blood as God had commanded in Deuteronomy 12:23-25. Saul rebukes the people for not following God's commands even though Saul is partially at fault for not allowing them to eat before. Saul then takes their animals, slaughters them the correct way and builds an altar to the Lord.

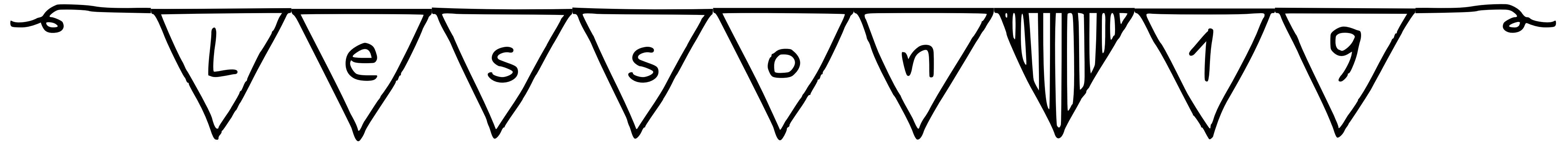
Saul wanted to go down to kill all of the Philistines after the battle. Saul asks God what he should do but God doesn't answer him that day. Saul makes another oath that whoever ate the day Saul commanded not to would be killed. Jonathan tells Saul that he ate honey that day and Saul says he must die. But the people defended Jonathan, "Shall Jonathan die, who has accomplished this great deliverance in Israel? Certainly not! As the Lord lives, not one hair of his head shall fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day." (15:45) And the people rescued Jonathan. Saul established sovereignty over Israel, fought many wars and won them.



Saul was not authorized to make a burnt offering or peace offering. Even if Saul had used a proper priest, he still disobeyed in not writing for Samuel. In your life, who do you have to obey? Parents, grandparents, teachers, policemen, etc.



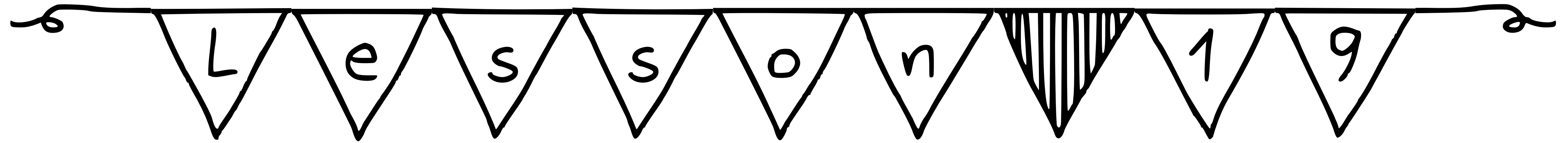
Samuel's prophecy from 1 Samuel 8:11 is coming true. Saul is raising an army and where are they coming from? The ratio of the Philistine army to the Israelite army is 12 to 1 and the Israelites have no war weapons. Yet Saul's victories are summarized in 14:47. God had to be on Israel's side. Trust and obey. Wait on the Lord.



In 1 Samuel 8:11, Samuel gives his warning about the people asking for a king. “He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots.”

We see the prophesy coming true in 1 Samuel 14:52. “There was hard fighting against the Philistines all the days of Saul. And when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he attached him to himself.”

The people will see the problems with asking for a king instead of trusting God to do what’s best for them.



Let's compare Jonathan's faith with that of his father's at this point. Jonathan trusts God completely and has a total dependence of Him. Saul expects his men to obey him but does not expect to have to obey God himself.

Saul's foolishness and pride almost cost him the life of his son. He was willing to go through with killing Jonathan to save his pride. Humility is not a quality Saul shows during this time.