

Exegetical Notes – 1 Samuel 13:16-22

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen for Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

charleshjensen@aol.com

1 Samuel 13:16-22

(See 1 Samuel 13:1-15. After Jonathan provoked the Philistines, the Philistines assembled a huge army to retaliate. Israel was vastly outmatched in men and weapons. Saul had called out the men of Israel, but they were deserting the king. Things looked desperate.)

Verses 16-18

¹⁶ Saul and his son Jonathan and the men with them were staying in Gibeah in Benjamin, while the Philistines camped at Mikdash. ¹⁷ Raiding parties went out from the Philistine camp in three detachments. One turned toward Ophrah in the vicinity of Shual, ¹⁸ another toward Beth Horon, and the third toward the borderland overlooking the Valley of Zeboyim facing the wilderness.

- The armies of Israel and Philistia stood ready for battle. But there was no engagement. Instead, the Philistines sent out raiding parties in three different directions to punish the people of Israel. Israel was unable to respond to the Philistines' attacks because their army was too small. They could not send out soldiers because, if they did, the Philistines would attack the Israeli camp. Israel was helpless.

Verses 19-20

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!" ²⁰ So all Israel went down to the Philistines to have their plow points, mattocks, axes and sickles sharpened. ²¹ The price was two-thirds of a shekel for sharpening plow points and mattocks, and a third of a shekel for sharpening forks and axes and for repointing goads.

- Before all this happened, the Philistines made it illegal for any Hebrew to be a blacksmith. They had shut down that industry in Israel. Israel was forced to go to a Philistine town even to have their tools sharpened.

Verse 22

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.

- Because Israel had surrendered to Philistine control concerning blacksmithing, on the day when Israel faced the Philistines, not one of Saul's soldiers had a weapon. Only Saul and Jonathan were armed.
- Israel had not been diligent or vigilant. They had allowed the Philistines to gain the upper hand. The nation was utterly defenseless.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon based on 1 Samuel 13:16-22. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. All rights are reserved by Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)