

1 Samuel 14 - Jonathan and the Armour Bearer

- ¹ One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armour,
“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,
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, Yahweh’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.
- ⁵ One cliff stood to the north toward Micmash, the other to the south toward Geba.
- ⁶ Jonathan said to his young armour-bearer,
“Come, let’s go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows.
Perhaps Yahweh will act in our behalf.
Nothing can hinder Yahweh from saving, whether by many or by few.”
- ⁷ “Do all that you have in mind,” his armour-bearer said.
“Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul.”
- ⁸ Jonathan said,
“Come, then; we will cross over toward the men 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.
- ¹⁰ But if they say, ‘Come up to us,’ we will climb up,
because that will be our sign that Yahweh has given them into our hands.”
- 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.”
- ¹² The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armour-bearer,
“Come up to us and we’ll teach you a lesson.”
- So Jonathan said to his armour-bearer,
“Climb up after me; Yahweh has given them into the hand of Israel.”
- ¹³ Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet,
with his armour-bearer right behind him.
The Philistines fell before Jonathan,
and his armour-bearer followed and killed behind him.
- ¹⁴ In that first attack Jonathan and his armour-bearer killed some twenty men in an area
of about half an acre.
- 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.