

***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***  
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**SERIES: I Samuel, Part 1 (The Heart of a Leader)**

**TUESDAY**

**OPEN**

You're in a difficult situation, and you're wondering, "How can I get out of this? What am I going to do? Lord, it's like there's an army against me." O beloved, you're going to see today that it doesn't matter if there's an army against you, if the Lord is with you, because it doesn't take an army for the Lord to deliver you. This is what we're going to look at as we study 1 Samuel and as we learn God's precepts for life.

**PART ONE**

Well we had a good time talking about obedience, didn't we? And as we talked about obedience I want you now, to start keeping a list of the things that you learn about Saul, because another man is about to enter the scene very, very soon. And I want you to contrast these two men. Yeah, you know who it is, don't you, because you've read the book and it is David. Or maybe you've downloaded our study guide and you're even ahead of me. And you are learning how to discover truth for yourself, how to study your Bible. So you can go, if you haven't downloaded the study yet, go to

preceptsforlife.com. It's absolutely free, but I'm telling you it is priceless for what you are going to learn. Well, we are looking at Saul and you remember now, Saul has lost the kingdom because he broke God's commandments. Now he has not lost the reign of the kingdom, but God has told him, I'm going to take the kingdom away from you. And we saw that in 1 Samuel, chapter 13, verse 13 when "Samuel said to Saul, 'You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you, for now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not endure. The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart.'" (1 Samuel 13:13-14a) Now if you just joined us, welcome. We're glad you have and you can join us anytime you want and pick up where we are. But one of the things that we want you to mark is the word heart. It's very important. Now how would you mark the word heart? How about a red heart over it? You say, "But I don't want to mark my Bible." Well, that's why you can download the study guide, Precepts for Life and you have the whole book of 1 Samuel there, and that is courtesy of the New American Standard people, the Lockman Foundation that has given us the permission to do this, because they're eager for you to study the Word of God, and they're eager for you to study it in a translation that is faithful to the original text, because remember, we're studying the words of God. So you want to mark the word heart, and it's going to become even more important in the days to come. And it says, "...and the Lord has appointed him..." this man that He sought out after His own heart, "...as [a] ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you." (13:14b) Now we left off there. We talked about obedience. And now we're coming to the next segment and we're going to flow from chapter 13 right into 14, because God wants us to see a very important principle today. In verse 15 it says, "Then Samuel arose and went from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin...." (13:15a) Now when it says Gibeah of Benjamin it means there's more than one Gibeah. And this Gibeah is found where the tribe of Benjamin settled. And remember we double underline all geographical references in two green lines, if you've chosen to do as we have suggested. And you do that because geography is very important. And then of course you have a map so if you don't know where those things are

you can find them on the map. And it says, "...And Saul numbered the people who were present with him, about six hundred men. Now Saul and his son Jonathan..."(13:15b-16a) O, Jonathan is coming on the forefront, in the book of Samuel now and it's going to be very important that you learn what you can about Jonathan. So this is what we would suggest that you pick a color for Jonathan. You can even pick a color for Saul if you want to. And not that you need to color every pronoun that goes with them, but just pick up the main references to Saul and Jonathan so that you can see the character of these men, so that you can watch them in action, because you want to learn from them. Remember Romans tells us, ["that the things that were written beforehand were written for our understanding, for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come."] (Romans 15:4 paraphrase) And they're examples for us. So we can learn a lot from Saul's life. We're going to learn a lot from Jonathan's life, and we're going to learn a lot from this man who is a man after God's own heart, that God has appointed as ruler over His people. But that man hasn't shown up yet so we're just going to concentrate on Saul and Jonathan. So it says, "Now Saul and his son Jonathan..." I'm in verse 16, "...and the people who were present with them were staying at Geba of Benjamin while the Philistines camped at Michmash."(1Samuel 13:16) Now the Philistines are this perennial enemy of Israel. They're always tormenting them. And the Philistines live along the coast, and they live in the area of present day Gaza. So if you would just go over and look at that map and you hear much about Gaza and you hear much about the PLO, so this is where they were. "And the raiders came from the camp of the Philistines in three companies: one company turned toward Ophrah, to the land of Shual, and another company turned toward Beth-horon..."(13:17-18a) And Beth, B-e-t-h is pronounced by the Jews Beth and it means house, house of horon. "...and another company turned toward the border which overlooks the valley of Zeboim [through,] toward the wilderness."(13:18b) "Now no blacksmith could be found in all [the land] of Israel, for the Philistines said, '[Lest] the Hebrews make swords or spears.'"(13:19) So it shows you who has the power. It's the Philistines that have the power. So all throughout the land of Israel, this land that God had given to His people, to the descendents of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, as

an everlasting possession, this land was so overpowered by the Philistines that they wouldn't let a blacksmith be found in all of Israel. "So all Israel [had to go] down to the Philistines, each to sharpen..." now watch, "...his plowshare, his mattock[s], his axe, and his hoe." (13:20) Any time he wanted something sharpened the only blacksmith he could find was in the area of the Philistines. "[And] The charge was two-thirds of a shekel for the plowshares, [and] the mattocks, [and] the forks, and the axes, and to fix the hoes. [Now] it came about on the day of battle..." and this is so important, "...that neither sword nor spear was found in the hands of any of the people who were with Saul and Jonathan, but they were found with Saul and his son Jonathan." (13:21-22) Okay, so here's this army that is fighting against the Philistines. Here's these people, that, the land belongs to them and they're trying to defend it. But who has a sword and who has a spear? Well, only Saul and only Jonathan, which is the son of Saul. They're the only ones that have it, because the Philistines aren't really going to be sharpening their swords or their spears because they don't want them to have weapons. So it looks like already in the natural realm as if they are set up for defeat. But this is the thing that I want you to see. Does it matter the swords? Does it matter the spears? Does it matter the weapons that we have? Yes, you don't go to war without weapons, and that is obvious. But who determines the outcome of the battle? That's what you want to know. And that's the side that you want to be on. Now let's go to verse 23. "And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash. Now the day came that Jonathan..." chapter 14, verse 1, "...the son of Saul..." (13:23-14:1a) So you're going to color Jonathan there. "...said to the young man who was carrying his armor, 'Come and let us cross over to the Philistines' garrison that's on the [yonder] side.' But he did not tell his father." (14:1b) In other words, he's going to slip off and he's going to go over into Philistine territory and Saul, daddy Saul doesn't know it. "[Now] Saul was staying in the outskirts of Gibeah under the pomegranate tree which is at Migron. And the people who were with him were about six hundred men..." Now we saw that in chapter 13. "...and Ahijah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the priest of the Lord at Shiloh, was wearing an ephod." (14:2-3a) Now what he did is he just gave you the genealogy of

this priest. And he gave you the genealogy and he traced it all the way back, and if you've been with us in 1 Samuel, he traced it all the way back to the beginning of 1 Samuel to the very first chapter where you meet Eli, who is the priest. All right, so he's wearing an ephod. Now what is an ephod? Well remember the ephod was something that held the breastplate, and the breastplate had the stones for the tribes of Israel in it. And then they had the Urim and the Thummim, and we don't know exactly how it worked, but we know that when they wanted to ask God questions and they had the ephod on with the stones, with the breast piece on, and then the stones, they would like light up, and there was one stone for every tribe. And this the way God would many times instruct them was through the ephod. Now it was common for the priests to be in the battle. And we're going to look at that later, but I just want you to know so Ahijah is there. And it says, "And the people did not know that Jonathan had gone. [And] Between the passes by which Jonathan sought to cross over to the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp crag on the one side, and a sharp crag on the other side, and the name of one was Bozez, and the...other [was] Seneh."(14:3b-4) "The one crag rose on the north opposite Michmash, and the other on the south opposite Geba,"(14:5) which was where the two camps were. All right, "Then Jonathan said to the young man who was carrying his armor, 'Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps the Lord will work for us....,' Now hang on, here it is. "...for the Lord is not restrained to save by many or by few."(14:6) Did you get that? "The Lord is not restrained to save by many or by few." So whatever situation you're in, if you feel out numbered, just know this, if God is for you, who can be against you? If God is on your side it doesn't matter how many more are there, because the Lord is not restrained to save by many or to save by few. We'll be right back.

## **PART TWO**

Welcome back. Now let's go back to 1 Samuel, chapter 14 and let me remind you, if you just happened to pick up this program right in the middle, that you can study your Bible along with us. You can learn how to study

your Bible by downloading our study guide. And you just go to [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com), [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com). Well we come back to a young man who knows his God, who is able to stand firm, and who is about to take action. And it's amazing what Jonathan is about to do. Now remember Jonathan has a sword. We know that from chapter 13. And we know that he has a spear. And we know that he has a young man carrying his armor, so that's an armor bearer. And that's many times what the men had when they went to war. The commanders or generals especially would have an armor bearer that would be able to hand them the spear if they needed it or the sword if they needed it. So here's this young man carrying Jonathan's armor and Jonathan turns to him and he says, "Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps the Lord will work for us, for the Lord is not restrained to save by many or by few."(14:6) Isn't that an awesome verse? Now one of the things that you need to do is when you come to a truth about God or something that will show you the attribute of God, the character of God, that He's powerful, that He's wise, that He knows, that He's able to deliver, anything like that, I highlight those truths in yellow. I don't use a highlighter cause I always mark in my Bible and I use a New American Standard. But I have these multicolored pencils and you can go on line and you can find out how to get these because they're eight colors in one pencil and they're just awesome, absolutely awesome. They're a little expensive, but they're really worth it, and it's the best thing that we've found, and we've searched high and low. So I highlight it in yellow, so that when I look down at my page, when later on I'm reading my Bible, that pops right out. And I remember this truth: "That the Lord is not restrained to save by many or by few."(14:6b) What does that mean? It means that God doesn't need the help of anyone else. It doesn't matter how many are coming along beside him, or how few there are, if God wants to save, God's going to save. And that's what you need to know, and that's what you need to believe. And it said, "[And] His armor bearer said to him, 'Do all that[']s in your heart...;" Now watch this armor bearer. "...turn yourself, and here I am with you according to your desire."(14:7) You know what? You and I need an armor bearer like that. We need a friend. We need a companion that's going to come along side of us. Why? Because two are better than one the

book of Ecclesiastes says, because two can stay warmer better than one can. If one falls down, then the second one can pull him back up. So you need an armor bearer. You need to pray for someone that has the same mind and the same heart, and it's probably somebody that you're going to mentor, somebody that's probably younger in the faith than you, or somebody that does not have same gifts, the spiritual gifts as you have. It's probably a person that might have the gift of exhortation or the gift of helps or the gift of administration, someone that would come along, but someone with this heart. I love this armor bearer. "Do all that's in your heart." Listen, you got to mark heart there. Okay, "Do all that's in your heart; turn yourself, and here I am with you according to your desire."(14:7b) And really the word desire there is heart again. Because where do the desires come from? They come from the heart. So you want to put two hearts in that verse. "Then Jonathan said, 'Behold, we[']ll cross over to the men and reveal ourselves to them. [And] if they say to us, "Wait until we come to you"; then we will stand in our place and [we will] not go up to them. But if they say, "come up to us," then we'll go up, for the Lord has given them into our hands; and this shall be a sign to us.'"(14:8-10) All right so they're standing there and they have to determine, hey can I take this hill, so to speak? Can I take this little garrison of the Philistines that are up there? Can I do it? It's just one spear. It's just one sword and it is one warrior, and one armor bearer that's beside him all the way. But can I really do this? "So Lord, if they say stay there, then we're going to stay here. We're not going to go up. We're going to know that that's You. But if they say come on up, we're going to know hey, this is sign and You have delivered them into our hand." Now watch this, cause you want to highlight this again. It says, "For the Lord has given them into our hands and this shall be a sign to us."(14:10b) Not, O we're so clever, O we're so strong, O our strategy's so good, but it's God. Beloved, you and I need to understand that God is sovereign, that God rules over all, that God determines whether there is victory or defeat. Remember what you saw in the beginning of the book of 1 Samuel. Remember what you saw in Hannah's song. Remember that God promotes and God puts down, that God's the one that's in charge. And so this again, emphasizes this, so color it yellow. You don't want to forget it. "[And] When both of them revealed

themselves to the garrison of the Philistines, the Philistines said, ‘Behold, Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden themselves.’ So the men of the garrison hailed Jonathan and his armor bearer and said, ‘Come up to us and we will tell you something.’ And Jonathan said to his armor bearer, ‘Come up after me, for the Lord has given them into the hands of [you and me].’”(14:11-12) Now listen, if you’re reading along with me, you’re saying O no, that’s not what it says. And see that’s why you have to read the Word of God for yourself. Now I realize that if you’re driving in a car I don’t want you reading the Word of God. Okay, I want you to read it later, but not then. But he doesn’t say, “The Lord has given them into yours and my hand.” “The Lord has given them into the hands of Israel.”(14:12b) This is so important for you to see. I want you to see Jonathan’s heart, because Jonathan is not out for personal glory. Jonathan is not out for personal victory. And beloved, if you’re going to win the battles of life, they have to be battles that are for the Lord’s glory and not for your own. Well, “...Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, with his armor bearer behind him; and they fell before Jonathan, and his armor bearer put some to death. [And] The first slaughter which Jonathan and his armor bearer made was about twenty men within...[a] half [of] furrow in an acre of land. And there was trembling in the camp, in the field, and among the people. Even the garrison and the raiders trembled, and the earth quaked so that it became a great trembling.”(14:13-15) Who shook the earth? It was God. I mean it was God, just showing off, just showing His power, and showing off the faith of these two men. O beloved, there is so much to learn from the Word of God. But as we bring this program to a close, I don’t know what you’re battling. I don’t know whether you’re wondering whether you’re going to get this promotion, whether you’re going to get a job, whether you’re going to get a certain appointment, but I can just tell you this. I can assure you that if God wants you there He will put you there. God is stronger than any other human being. Remember that He is God.