

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: I Samuel, Part 1 (The Heart of a Leader)

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

I see you. Are you standing alone? Is there no one at your side? O beloved, don't you know that Christianity is not about one, but it's about more than one? It's about another one at your side, another one that you are able to disciple that you are able to mentor. It's about an armor bearer, somebody that has come along with you for a common cause. We're going to talk about it today as we look at God's precepts for life.

PART ONE

Well hello beloved. It is so good to be studying God's Word with you, and I am so thankful to know that you are there and I know that you're there because of all the studies that you are downloading, because you're going to preceptsforlife.com and you're saying I want to study the Bible. And why learn how to study the Bible? Because the Bible has God's precepts for life. So go to preceptsforlife.com and download absolutely free the study guide on 1 Samuel, and then immediately turn with me to 1 Samuel, chapter 14 where I left us. Remember that Jonathan and his armor bearer have gone up

to take this Philistine garrison that is there, that are causing havoc against the Israelites, and he goes up and he slaughters 20 men. And even his armor bearer has a part in that battle, because he gets to put some of the people to death after Jonathan does. Let's go back and pick up at verse 13. "Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, [and] with his armor bearer...."(1Samuel 14:13a) Remember he's going up this crag. And as he goes up this crag with his armor bearer, "...behind him; and they fell before Jonathan, and his armor bearer put some to death after him."(14:13b) Remember we talked about the importance of having an armor bearer. And we talked about the importance of mentoring another person. Do you realize as a parent that you are mentoring your children, whether you're doing it consciously or not, that those children are under you, that they are watching you, that they desire in their little hearts, even though sometimes they are so stubborn, they desire to really have your approval. And they desire to be there with you, and they desire to be like you, to walk like you, to talk like you, unless you're mean as a snake. And if you're mean as a snake, then you need to get something straightened out because something is awfully wrong in your life. You need to keep listening because we're going to see when Saul gets as mean as a snake, and what we can learn from his life so that we don't get that way. But anyway, you need an armor bearer. An armor bearer is another person that comes along side you that is gifted and called in a different way, but is there as a support person. And as that support person they say, as Jonathan's armor bearer said in verse 7, "Do all that's in your heart; turn yourself, and here I am with you according to your desire,"(14:7) or literally according to your heart. So an armor bearer is a person that is lined up with you that has the same heart, the same passion. And what you see is, that when you're together as two that the glory is not going to go to one, that the glory is honestly to go to the Lord. Remember in verse 10 Jonathan said, "But if they say, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up, for the Lord has given them into our hands; and this shall be [a] sign to us."(14:10) And so then he says, "Come up after me, for the Lord has given them into the hands of Israel."(14:12b) So it's beyond us. It moves beyond us to kingdom work. And so if you're going to do kingdom work get yourself, ask God for an armor bearer, someone that will come along side, help you do the

task and then the glory will go, not to you, not to the armor bearer, but the glory will go to the Lord, and you'll allow that armor bearer to participate in the battle or to participate in the activity. You and I aren't going to be wielding swords. I hope you aren't going to be wielding a sword. But whatever we're doing then the armor bearer participates in it, even as it did with Jonathan. And we see it in verse 13, "...and his armor bearer put some to death after him. [And at] That first slaughter which Jonathan and his armor bearer made was about twenty men within about half a furrow in an acre of land. And there was trembling in the camp, [and]...the field, and among all the people. Even the garrison and the raiders trembled, and the earth quaked so that it became a great trembling."(14:13b-15) Their trembling was so great that it was shaking the earth, or the Lord was shaking the earth and causing them to tremble. Either way it was a trembling before the power of God. Now listen to this next passage. In verse 16 is where it begins, chapter 14 of 1 Samuel, verse 16. "Now Saul's watchmen in Gibeah of Benjamin..."(14:16a) and remember we saw that that's where they were, and we're double underlining it because it's a geographical reference. You know where it is; if you don't look at the map that we have provided in the study guide. "...[they] looked, and behold, the multitude melted away; and they went here and there. [And] Saul said to the people, who were with them, 'Number now and see who [is] gone from us.' And when they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armor bearer were not there."(14:16b-17) Now what has happened? You have to remember Saul starts out with 600 men, but these 600 men don't have weapons; it's just Saul and Jonathan. Now we've got all this chaos going on. Now we've got the earth trembling and everything. And Saul doesn't know what Jonathan and his armor has done. And so they know just that they're missing from the camp. "Then Saul said to Ahijah..."(14:18a) Now remember who Ahijah is. We saw it yesterday. Ahijah is the priest from the line of Eli, the first priest that we meet in the book of 1 Samuel, and it says, "Then Saul said to Ahijah, 'Bring the ark of God here.' For the ark of God was at that time with the sons of Israel."(14:18) Now remember the ark of God was the piece of furniture that went into the tabernacle, went into the tent, and the tent was at Shiloh during this time. But the ark of the covenant would go into the most holy place of

the tent, because it was the piece of furniture that symbolized the throne of God. It was a square box and it was covered with a lid and that lid was called the mercy seat. And on top of the mercy seat and attached to the mercy seat were the two cherubim that hovered over. If you've seen Raiders of the Lost Ark it has to do with the ark of the covenant. So there's a lot of fascination with the ark and there's a lot of fascination because it was a place of power. The Shekinah glory, a cloud by day, a pillar of fire by night would hover over that showing that God's presence was with them. So he wants him to bring the ark of God to him. "For the ark of God was at time with the sons of Israel." (14:18b) Verse 19: "[And it happened that] While Saul talked to the priest, [that] the commotion in the camp of the Philistines continued and increased; so Saul said to the priest, 'Withdraw your hand.'" (14:19) Now let's just stop for a minute and what I want us to do is I want us to do some cross-referencing. Cross-referencing is when you go to another scripture that throws light on what you're reading, or adds to your understanding. And so next to verse 19, write Deuteronomy, chapter 20, verses 1-4. And what I want to show you is the Jewish chaplaincy, okay, the Jewish chaplaincy. In other words their army had a chaplain and we're going to see that in Deuteronomy, chapter 20, verses 1-4. Now Deuteronomy is the book that is a rehearsal of the Law that is given to the children of Israel who are the new generation that have come up and while the others have died as they wandered in the wilderness. And so he wants to make sure that they understand God's precepts for life for them as they live within the land, and how they're to conduct themselves. Because remember Israel was a theocracy, t-h-e-o-c-r-a-c-y, theo, meaning God; so it was not a democracy; it was not ruled by the common people, but rather it was ruled by God. It became a monarchy because they wanted a king, but it started out as a theocracy. So God lays down the rules for them and tells them what to do. And we're reading what happens when they go to battle. He says ["When you go to battle against your enemies and you see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them."] What did we talk about in our last lesson? "That God is not restrained to save by many or by few." So here again is a good cross-reference for us on the fact that God is not restrained to save by many or by few. It says, "...do not be afraid of

them...;” Why? “...for the Lord your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, is with you.”(Deuteronomy 20:1b) In other words you never need to fear if God is with you. If you and I could get that in our heads, if we could understand that God is sovereign, that His sovereignty rules over all, and that if we are a child of God, God is for us and He is not against us. And God has promised us that everything in our life is going to work together for good, not that it’s going to be good, but it’s going to work together for good. And as Romans 8:28 & 29 says, [“It will be used to make us into the image of Jesus Christ.”](Romans 8:29a) So you might want to take Deuteronomy, chapter 20, verse 1 and even write it next to 1 Samuel, chapter 14, verse 6, where “...the Lord is not restrained to save by many or few.”(1Samuel 14:6b) All right now we’re going to go on with this, but not until you hear this very important announcement.

PART TWO

Welcome back beloved. I am so proud of you and I am so thankful for you. And you know what? I appreciate so much your support of this program. It is so necessary because we’re a mission organization, and we’re in 121 countries; we’re in 65 languages and this home base supports the rest of the work that we’re doing in the world. So when you support us, you’re not only helping us stay on radio, but you’re helping us reach others with these wonderful materials so that they can know how to study God’s Word for themselves. So thank you, thank you very, very much. Well we’re looking at a cross-reference and next to 1 Samuel, chapter 14, somewhere between verse 17 and 19 we have written Deuteronomy, chapter 20, verse 1-4, and that’s because we have seen that Ahijah is there with Saul in the camp. Now we saw that in chapter 13 also. But I told you that we would get to this passage and we have; we’re looking at a cross-reference. And He’s telling them what to do when you go out to battle. And He says, “When you go to battle...and [you] see these horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, don’t be afraid of them...;” Do not be afraid.” That’s worth underlining. “...for the Lord your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, is with you.”(Deuteronomy 20:1) Now the reason that you’re not

afraid is because God is with you. And Hebrews 13 is so important here. He has said, ["I will never, never, never leave nor never forsake you."](Hebrews 13:5b) Those are the negatives in the Greek. "So that we can [boldly] say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not [fear what man will do to me].'"(13:6) So if you have fear you can know that when you are afraid you need to put your trust in God because that fear, that spirit of fear has not come from God, as 1 Timothy, chapter 1, says. "It is not from God; it's from the flesh or it's from the enemy, or the enemy using the people that are coming against you.(Wrong reference) Verse 2: "[Now it shall come about that] When you are approaching the battle, the priest shall come near and speak to the people. [And] He shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel, you are approaching the battle against your enemies today. Do not be fainthearted....'"(Deuteronomy 20:2-3a) So you need to underline that. Don't be faint hearted, don't be afraid, don't let your knees be knocking and your teeth a clattering when you have to do something beloved, whether you have to say something at work or whether you have a task to do or whether you have an exam to take or whatever, whether you have to correct your children. Whatever you're doing, if you are doing it according to the Word of God, if you are walking according to God's precepts for life, then beloved, you do not have to be faint hearted because God is with you; God is supporting you. God supports the righteous; and the righteous are the people that live according to what is right. "...Do[n't] be fainthearted. Do not be afraid, or panic, or tremble before them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you."(Deuteronomy 20:3b-4) And that's exactly what He just did with Jonathan and his armor bearer. And it wasn't Jonathan and his armor bearer that was trembling; it was the enemy that was trembling. So what I wrote in my Bible next to these verses, and I have a New Inductive Study Bible, which has wide margins and has instructions for how to study each book of the Bible, what verses to mark, what words to see, key words and all of those wonderful, wonderful things and a place to write the theme of every chapter right at the head of the chapter. Well I wrote in the margin of my Bible "chaplains". So these are the chaplains. And the chaplains are there to remind the people that if God is for you, who can be against you? All right now let's go on and go back to 1

Samuel 14, verse 20. “Then Saul and all the people who were with him rallied and came to the battle” (1Samuel 14:20a) and he came to the battle because there was commotion in the camp of the Philistines. And when he heard this commotion, and remember this commotion was instigated by Jonathan and his armor bearer. “[And so] Saul and all the people who were with him rallied...,” They were starting to run away. “...and [they] came to the battle; and behold, every man’s sword was against his fellow, and there was great confusion.”(1Samuel 14:20 I mean the Philistines were slicing, spicing, stabbing their own people. And it says, “Now the Hebrews who were with the Philistines previously...,”(14:21a) I mean these are traitors. These are people that have gone over to the Philistines because they were stronger. “Now the Hebrews who were with the Philistines previously, who went up with them all around in the camp, even they also turned to be with the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. [And] When all the men of Israel who had hidden themselves in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines had fled.”(14:21-22a) Now listen, these are the cowards in the army. These are the cowards that don’t have the swords and that and have gone and hidden because they are scared to death. We have read about them previously. All right, “...[When they] heard that the Philistines had fled, even they also pursued them closely in...battle.”(14:22b) In other words when saw the tide had turned they got their courage again and they took off. It’s just like a little dog that’s barking at this huge dog and being real feisty, and when he sees the huge dog turn around, I mean then that little dog takes courage and he just goes after him and yaps at his heels and grabs at his tail. So this is what’s happening. Now watch; here we go again. “So the Lord delivered Israel that day, and the battle spread beyond Beth-aven.”(14:23) Now you want to mark that. You want to highlight it in yellow. And then in my margin, this is what I do. I want to learn all about God that I can, so in the margin of my Bible, next to verse 23 I drew a triangle and I colored it yellow, because the triangle is my symbol for God, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, three parts to that triangle, three points. And then I wrote God delivers in battle. Now I drew it in purple because purple is a royal color, and God is royal. And then I colored it yellow. And so I just wanted to be reminded that God delivers in battle. You can do the same

thing next to 1 Samuel 14:6, “That God is not restrained to save by few or many.” So then when you’re flipping the Bible, sometimes we’re in anxiety and sometimes the battle is raging. It’s not a battle with swords, but it’s maybe a battle in the family. Maybe it’s a battle with the kids. Maybe it’s a battle with the boss. Maybe it’s a battle, God forbid, between the spouses, whatever. Maybe it’s with relatives. Maybe it’s with people and friends and family that don’t know Jesus Christ, that don’t love Him like you do or maybe there’s a battle raging because you really don’t know which side you’re on. You want to be on the winning side and sometimes you think the world is winning, and so what do you do? Well you need to stop and pause and open that Bible. And many times as you’re just opening the Bible and flipping through it you look at the margin, you look at a place that you’ve marked. You look at a verse you’ve highlighted. You look at something that you’ve written in the margin and all of a sudden you’re reminded of a truth in the Word of God. It’s a precept for life beloved. And you look and you see that in the margin: “God delivers in battle.” You look over and you see the yellow highlighted, “So the Lord delivered Israel that day,”(14:23a) and then you remember, “God, You can deliver me. God, You’re the one that saves and You’re not constrained by anything but Yourself and Your own desire.” This beloved, is the benefit of studying God’s Word.