JONATHAN ATTACKS THE PHILISTINES

ISRAEL ROUTS THE PHILISTINES

JONATHAN EATS HONEY

SAUL’S FAMILY

1 SAMUEL 14:1-52
Jonathan Attacks the Philistines

Israel routs the Philistines

Jonathan eats honey

Saul’s family

Commentary

by

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Text:

1 Samuel 14:1-52,

1. One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, "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, the LORD'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 armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."

7. "Do all that you have in mind," his armor-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 the LORD 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 armor-bearer, "Come up to us and we'll teach you a lesson." So Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Climb up after me; the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel."

13. Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him.

14. In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-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.

16. Saul's lookouts at Gibeah in Benjamin saw the army melting away in all directions.

17. Then Saul said to the men who were with him, "Muster the forces and see who has left us." When they did, it was Jonathan and his armor-bearer who were not there.
18. Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ark of God." (At that time it was with the Israelites.)
19. While Saul was talking to the priest, the tumult in the Philistine camp increased more and more. So Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand."
20. Then Saul and all his men assembled and went to the battle. They found thePhilistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords.
21. Those Hebrews who had previously been with the Philistines and had gone up with them to their camp went over to the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.
22. When all the Israelites who had hidden in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were on the run, they joined the battle in hot pursuit.
23. So the LORD rescued Israel that day, and the battle moved on beyond Beth Aven.
24. Now the men of Israel were in distress that day, because Saul had bound the people under an oath, saying, "Cursed be any man who eats food before evening comes, before I have avenged myself on my enemies!" So none of the troops tasted food.
25. The entire army entered the woods, and there was honey on the ground.
26. When they went into the woods, they saw the honey oozing out, yet no one put his hand to his mouth, because they feared the oath.
27. But Jonathan had not heard that his father had bound the people with the oath, so he reached out the end of the staff that was in his hand and dipped it into the honeycomb. He raised his hand to his mouth, and his eyes brightened.
28. Then one of the soldiers told him, "Your father bound the army under a strict oath, saying, 'Cursed be any man who eats food today!' That is why the men are faint."
29. Jonathan said, "My father has made trouble for the country. See how my eyes brightened when I tasted a little of this honey.

30. How much better it would have been if the men had eaten today some of the plunder they took from their enemies. Would not the slaughter of the Philistines have been even greater?"

31. That day, after the Israelites had struck down the Philistines from Micmash to Aijalon, they were exhausted.

32. They pounced on the plunder and, taking sheep, cattle and calves, they butchered them on the ground and ate them, together with the blood.

33. Then someone said to Saul, "Look, the men are sinning against the LORD by eating meat that has blood in it." "You have broken faith," he said. "Roll a large stone over here at once."

34. Then he said, "Go out among the men and tell them, 'Each of you bring me your cattle and sheep, and slaughter them here and eat them. Do not sin against the LORD by eating meat with blood still in it.' " So everyone brought his ox that night and slaughtered it there.

35. Then Saul built an altar to the LORD; it was the first time he had done this.

36. Saul said, "Let us go down after the Philistines by night and plunder them till dawn, and let us not leave one of them alive." "Do whatever seems best to you," they replied. But the priest said, "Let us inquire of God here."

37. So Saul asked God, "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will you give them into Israel's hand?" But God did not answer him that day.

38. Saul therefore said, "Come here, all you who are leaders of the army, and let us find out what sin has been committed today."
39. As surely as the LORD who rescues Israel lives, even if it lies with my son Jonathan, he must die." But not one of the men said a word.
40. Saul then said to all the Israelites, "You stand over there; I and Jonathan my son will stand over here." "Do what seems best to you," the men replied.
41. Then Saul prayed to the LORD, the God of Israel, "Give me the right answer." And Jonathan and Saul were taken by lot, and the men were cleared.
42. Saul said, "Cast the lot between me and Jonathan my son." And Jonathan was taken.
43. Then Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done." So Jonathan told him, "I merely tasted a little honey with the end of my staff. And now must I die?"
44. Saul said, "May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if you do not die, Jonathan."
45. But the men said to Saul, "Should Jonathan die—he who has brought about this great deliverance in Israel? Never! As surely as the LORD lives, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground, for he did this today with God's help." So the men rescued Jonathan, and he was not put to death.
46. Then Saul stopped pursuing the Philistines, and they withdrew to their own land.
47. After Saul had assumed rule over Israel, he fought against their enemies on every side: Moab, the Ammonites, Edom, the kings of Zobah, and the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he inflicted punishment on them.
48. He fought valiantly and defeated the Amalekites, delivering Israel from the hands of those who had plundered them.
49. Saul's sons were Jonathan, Ishvi and Malki-Shua. The name of his older daughter was Merab, and that of the younger was Michal.
50. His wife's name was Ahinoam daughter of Ahimaaz. The name of the commander of Saul's army was Abner son of Ner, and Ner was Saul's uncle.
51. Saul's father Kish and Abner's father Ner were sons of Abiel.
52. All the days of Saul there was bitter war with the Philistines, and whenever Saul saw a mighty or brave man, he took him into his service. (NIV)

Commentary:

1 Samuel 14:1-23, One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But he did not tell his father. Saul was staying on the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree in Migron. With him were about six hundred men, 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, the LORD's priest in Shiloh. No one was aware that Jonathan had left. 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. One cliff stood to the north toward Micmash, the other to the south toward Geba. Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few." "Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul." Jonathan said, "Come, then; we will cross over toward the men and let them see us. If they say to us, 'Wait there until we come to you,' we will stay where we are and not go up to them. But if they say, 'Come up to us,' we will climb up, because that will be our sign that the LORD has given them into our hands." 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." The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armor-bearer, "Come up to us and we'll teach you a
lesson." So Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Climb up after me; the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel." Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him. In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre. 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. Saul's lookouts at Gibeah in Benjamin saw the army melting away in all directions. Then Saul said to the men who were with him, "Muster the forces and see who has left us." When they did, it was Jonathan and his armor-bearer who were not there. Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ark of God." (At that time it was with the Israelites.) While Saul was talking to the priest, the tumult in the Philistine camp increased more and more. So Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand." Then Saul and all his men assembled and went to the battle. They found the Philistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords. Those Hebrews who had previously been with the Philistines and had gone up with them to their camp went over to the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. When all the Israelites who had hidden in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were on the run, they joined the battle in hot pursuit. So the LORD rescued Israel that day, and the battle moved on beyond Beth Aven. (NIV)

I. Israel’s victory over the Philistines, 14:1-23.

A. Jonathan’s victory over the Philistine garrison, 14:1-15.

1. 1 Samuel 14:1-15, One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other
side." But he did not tell his father. Saul was staying on the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree in Migron. With him were about six hundred men, 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, the LORD's priest in Shiloh. No one was aware that Jonathan had left. 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. One cliff stood to the north toward Micmash, the other to the south toward Geba. Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few." "Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul." Jonathan said, "Come, then; we will cross over toward the men and let them see us. If they say to us, 'Wait there until we come to you,' we will stay where we are and not go up to them. But if they say, 'Come up to us,' we will climb up, because that will be our sign that the LORD has given them into our hands."

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." The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armor-bearer, "Come up to us and we'll teach you a lesson." So Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Climb up after me; the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel." Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him. In
that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre. 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. (NIV)

2. Though Jonathan was mentioned in the previous chapter, little attention was given to him.

a. Jonathan was a man somewhat on a par with David; the two were contemporary, but David made his mark after Saul’s demise.

b. We are not told Jonathan’s age, but he was old enough to go into battle and he was old enough for the men to rally behind him.

   i. Neither are we told Saul’s age at this point—though we know he reigned 40 years.

c. Jonathan was a warrior and one that his father would have sit on the throne after him, so, presumably, Saul would not let Jonathan take the initiative he was about to take.

d. With such a large army now cut down to the size of six hundred (600), Saul preserved what he, valued most, his son.

3. The Philistines were on the prowl, and Saul did not need any further attention from them.

   a. Though he had the Ark of the Covenant (14:3), Saul was timid at the moment.
i. 1 Samuel 14:3, 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, the LORD's priest in Shiloh. No one was aware that Jonathan had left. (NIV)

4. As an aside, the historian gives us the priest’s name of the family of Eli – Ahijah.

a. Was he the same as the priest named Ahimelech (22:9)?

i. 1 Samuel 22:9, But Doeg the Edomite, who was standing with Saul's officials, said, "I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelech son of Ahitub at Nob. (NIV)

b. Some scholars think so (John Willis, p. 141).

c. If so, this name would be only a form of the name Ahimelech (Keil and Delitzsch, E-Sword).

d. The Lord’s pronouncement on Eli would be fulfilled in due course.

5. The description of the area that Jonathan and his armor bearer were considering in their attack is given in such a way that it would appear to be a suicide mission.

a. The fortress of the Philistine garrison encouraged the inhabitants to think that they were impregnable (Smith, p. 214).
6. As formidable as the garrison fortress was, Jonathan knew that with the Lord, anything can be overcome.

a. With this his armor bearer was ready to go (14:6-7).

i. 1 Samuel 14:6, 7, Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few." "Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul." (NIV)

7. Jonathan describes two scenarios, of which one will be the answer he seeks (14:8-15).

a. 1 Samuel 14:8-15, Jonathan said, "Come, then; we will cross over toward the men and let them see us. If they say to us, 'Wait there until we come to you,' we will stay where we are and not go up to them. But if they say, 'Come up to us,' we will climb up, because that will be our sign that the LORD has given them into our hands." 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." The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armor-bearer, "Come up to us and we'll teach you a lesson." So Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Climb up after me; the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel." Jonathan climbed up,
using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him. In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre. 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. (NIV)

i. The answer for which he was hoping was given.

b. The question is often asked, why would the Philistines bid Jonathan to come up?

i. It is thought that the Philistines, in this garrison, would not have been the true warrior type because the warrior would go to his enemy and take the battle to him.

c. Whether this is so or not, we cannot tell.

i. What we can tell was that Jonathan was a man of faith (in this respect at least) and the Lord gave him the victory.

d. Consider the nature of this dangerous mission.

i. To reach the top, they had to climb upon hands and knees.

ii. How could they fight after expending that energy?
iii. The entire garrison would only have had to throw rocks down upon them.

iv. These rocks would have sent the two warriors to their deaths at the bottom.

e. The Philistines challenged Jonathan to come up; he did, and the Philistines suffered for it.

8. As a result of Jonathan’s actions, the Philistines trembled greatly.

a. The NET translates: “The fear was caused by God.”

B. Israel’s victory over the Philistines, 14:16-23.

1. 1 Samuel 14:16-23, In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre. 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. Saul's lookouts at Gibeah in Benjamin saw the army melting away in all directions. Then Saul said to the men who were with him, "Muster the forces and see who has left us." When they did, it was Jonathan and his armor-bearer who were not there. Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ark of God." (At that time it was with the Israelites.) While Saul was talking to the priest, the tumult in the Philistine camp increased more and more. So Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand." Then Saul and all his men assembled and
went to the battle. They found the Philistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords. Those Hebrews who had previously been with the Philistines and had gone up with them to their camp went over to the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. When all the Israelites who had hidden in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were on the run, they joined the battle in hot pursuit. So the LORD rescued Israel that day, and the battle moved on beyond Beth Aven. (NIV)

2. The confusion in the Philistines camp – not very far away from Israel’s camp – causes Saul to begin to identify all those who were still with him, that could muster a force of arms.

   a. The two that were missing were identified as Jonathan and his armor bearer (14:16-17).

      i. 1 Samuel 14:16, 17, Saul's lookouts at Gibeah in Benjamin saw the army melting away in all directions. Then Saul said to the men who were with him, "Muster the forces and see who has left us." When they did, it was Jonathan and his armor-bearer who were not there. (NIV)

3. Saul then called for the Ark of the Covenant to inquire of the Lord.

   a. Interestingly enough, there is some dispute as to whether Saul called for the Ark or the ephod (LXX).
b. The NET (and Arnold, p. 109; Josephus, Antiquities 6.6.3 (115) thinks the ephod is the best idea whereas Youngblood thinks the MT is the correct reading, that is, the Ark of God.

c. The advantages of ephod over the Ark of the Covenant are apparent; however, if the Hebrew reads in a certain way, one must insist upon it.

4. Strangely, Saul prevented the priest from further proceedings.

a. Without the text identifying this as sin, one would think that it would have been sinful.

b. Are things so important that God is to be relegated to something less than a priority?

c. In any case, Saul noted the confusion and sought to take advantage (14:19-20).

i. 1 Samuel 14:19. 20, While Saul was talking to the priest, the tumult in the Philistine camp increased more and more. So Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand." Then Saul and all his men assembled and went to the battle. They found the Philistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords. (NIV)

d. As a result of the confusion and the destruction the Philistines were bringing on themselves, the Hebrews who were in hiding now came out and took up the battle (14:21-22).
i. 1 Samuel 14:21, 22, Those Hebrews who had previously been with the Philistines and had gone up with them to their camp went over to the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. When all the Israelites who had hidden in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were on the run, they joined the battle in hot pursuit. (NIV)

e. Thus, the Lord brought a great victory to Israel in spite of the Philistine numbers and the dire circumstances of the Israelite army (14:23).

i. 1 Samuel 14:23, So the LORD rescued Israel that day, and the battle moved on beyond Beth Aven. NIV)

1 Samuel 14:21-46, Those Hebrews who had previously been with the Philistines and had gone up with them to their camp went over to the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. When all the Israelites who had hidden in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were on the run, they joined the battle in hot pursuit. So the LORD rescued Israel that day, and the battle moved on beyond Beth Aven. Now the men of Israel were in distress that day, because Saul had bound the people under an oath, saying, "Cursed be any man who eats food before evening comes, before I have avenged myself on my enemies!" So none of the troops tasted food. The entire army entered the woods, and there was honey on the ground. When they went into the woods, they saw the honey oozing out, yet no one put his hand to his mouth, because they feared the oath. But Jonathan had not heard that his father had bound the people with the oath, so he reached out the end
of the staff that was in his hand and dipped it into the honeycomb. He raised his hand to his mouth, and his eyes brightened. Then one of the soldiers told him, "Your father bound the army under a strict oath, saying, 'Cursed be any man who eats food today!' That is why the men are faint." Jonathan said, "My father has made trouble for the country. See how my eyes brightened when I tasted a little of this honey. How much better it would have been if the men had eaten today some of the plunder they took from their enemies. Would not the slaughter of the Philistines have been even greater?" That day, after the Israelites had struck down the Philistines from Michmash to Aijalon, they were exhausted. They pounced on the plunder and, taking sheep, cattle and calves, they butchered them on the ground and ate them, together with the blood. Then someone said to Saul, "Look, the men are sinning against the LORD by eating meat that has blood in it." "You have broken faith," he said. "Roll a large stone over here at once." Then he said, "Go out among the men and tell them, 'Each of you bring me your cattle and sheep, and slaughter them here and eat them. Do not sin against the LORD by eating meat with blood still in it.' " So everyone brought his ox that night and slaughtered it there. Then Saul built an altar to the LORD; it was the first time he had done this. Saul said, "Let us go down after the Philistines by night and plunder them till dawn, and let us not leave one of them alive." "Do whatever seems best to you," they replied. But the priest said, "Let us inquire of God here." So Saul asked God, "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will you give them into Israel's hand?" But God did not answer him that day. Saul therefore said, "Come here, all you who are leaders of the army, and let us find out what sin has been committed today. As surely as the LORD who rescues Israel lives, even if it lies with my son Jonathan, he must die." But not one of the men said a word. Saul then said to all the Israelites, "You stand over there; I and Jonathan my son will
stand over here." "Do what seems best to you," the men replied. Then Saul prayed to the LORD, the God of Israel, "Give me the right answer." And Jonathan and Saul were taken by lot, and the men were cleared. Saul said, "Cast the lot between me and Jonathan my son." And Jonathan was taken. Then Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done." So Jonathan told him, "I merely tasted a little honey with the end of my staff. And now must I die?" Saul said, "May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if you do not die, Jonathan." But the men said to Saul, "Should Jonathan die—he who has brought about this great deliverance in Israel? Never! As surely as the LORD lives, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground, for he did this today with God's help." So the men rescued Jonathan, and he was not put to death. Then Saul stopped pursuing the Philistines, and they withdrew to their own land. (NIV)

I. Saul’s rash vow, (14:24-46).

A. From this writer’s perspective it is difficult to know precisely the point of this section.

1. It could be, as Arnold said, that Saul had already alienated himself from Samuel, the events of the chapter has the army alienated from him, and finally, his son is now separated (in part) from him.

2. At the very least it can be seen that while Saul was in hiding, his son Jonathan was not.

3. As Jonathan took the fight to the Philistines, Saul waited until the fight got underway before he engaged the enemy.
4. Without minimizing Saul’s valor, a difference can be seen here between Jonathan’s and Saul’s behavior under pressure.

B. Some scholars think 14:24-30 is a “flashback.”

1. 1 Samuel 14:24-30, Now the men of Israel were in distress that day, because Saul had bound the people under an oath, saying, "Cursed be any man who eats food before evening comes, before I have avenged myself on my enemies!" So none of the troops tasted food. The entire army entered the woods, and there was honey on the ground. When they went into the woods, they saw the honey oozing out, yet no one put his hand to his mouth, because they feared the oath. But Jonathan had not heard that his father had bound the people with the oath, so he reached out the end of the staff that was in his hand and dipped it into the honeycomb. He raised his hand to his mouth, and his eyes brightened. Then one of the soldiers told him, "Your father bound the army under a strict oath, saying, 'Cursed be any man who eats food today!' That is why the men are faint." Jonathan said, "My father has made trouble for the country. See how my eyes brightened when I tasted a little of this honey. How much better it would have been if the men had eaten today some of the plunder they took from their enemies. Would not the slaughter of the Philistines have been even greater?" (NIV)

2. In other words, the events recorded in these verses had taken place during the events in 14:20-23; it is merely recorded and “placed” at this point in the narrative.
a. 1 Samuel 14:20-23, Those Hebrews who had previously been with the Philistines and had gone up with them to their camp went over to the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. When all the Israelites who had hidden in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were on the run, they joined the battle in hot pursuit. So the LORD rescued Israel that day, and the battle moved on beyond Beth Aven. (NIV)

3. Saul leveled a curse against anyone who ate before the attack was finished (14:24).

a. 1 Samuel 14:24, Now the men of Israel were in distress that day, because Saul had bound the people under an oath, saying, "Cursed be any man who eats food before evening comes, before I have avenged myself on my enemies!" So none of the troops tasted food. (NIV)

b. In ancient society curses were taken seriously, much more seriously than they are today.

4. The army of Saul, taking the curse seriously, was famished by the end of the day and, it appears, before the battle was entirely over (14:29-30).

a. 1 Samuel 14:29, 30, Jonathan said, "My father has made trouble for the country. See how my eyes brightened when I tasted a little of this honey. How much better it would have been if the men had eaten today some of the plunder they took from their enemies. Would
not the slaughter of the Philistines have been even greater?" (NIV)

5. Jonathan was unaware of the oath and as soon as he ate that which was found in the forest where the army was, his countenance changed (14:27).

a. 1 Samuel 14:27, But Jonathan had not heard that his father had bound the people with the oath, so he reached out the end of the staff that was in his hand and dipped it into the honeycomb. He raised his hand to his mouth, and his eyes brightened. (NIV)

6. As soon as Jonathan heard of his father’s rash vow, he remarked that it was a foolish gesture on his father’s part.

C. The sin of the people (14:31-35).

1. 1 Samuel 14:31-35, That day, after the Israelites had struck down the Philistines from Micmash to Aijalon, they were exhausted. They pounced on the plunder and, taking sheep, cattle and calves, they butchered them on the ground and ate them, together with the blood. Then someone said to Saul, "Look, the men are sinning against the LORD by eating meat that has blood in it." "You have broken faith," he said. "Roll a large stone over here at once." Then he said, "Go out among the men and tell them, 'Each of you bring me your cattle and sheep, and slaughter them here and eat them. Do not sin against the LORD by eating meat with blood still in it.' " So everyone brought his ox that night and
slaughtered it there. Then Saul built an altar to the LORD; it was the first time he had done this. (NIV)

2. Saul’s rash vow had an unintended consequence.

a. The army was famished by all the energy exerted in the battle with the Philistines and by the time of the end of the day, with the vow still in place, when the army came upon the spoils of war, all inhibitions were thrust aside (at least with respect to food).

3. As you look at 14:24, the prohibition was only until the evening.

a. 1 Samuel 14:24, Now the men of Israel were in distress that day, because Saul had bound the people under an oath, saying, "Cursed be any man who eats food before evening comes, before I have avenged myself on my enemies!" So none of the troops tasted food. (NIV)

b. Had the evening arrived in 14:31-32?

i. 1 Samuel 14:31, 32, That day, after the Israelites had struck down the Philistines from Micmash to Aijalon, they were exhausted. They pounced on the plunder and, taking sheep, cattle and calves, they butchered them on the ground and ate them, together with the blood. (NIV)

c. Perhaps so if the army took the vow as seriously as is stated (14:26).
i. 1 Samuel 14:26, When they went into the woods, they saw the honey oozing out, yet no one put his hand to his mouth, because they feared the oath. (NIV)

4. The rash vow of Saul, as foolish as it might have been, did not relegate the activities of the army in eating food with blood as excusable (14:32; Genesis 9:4; Leviticus 17:10-13).

a. 1 Samuel 14:32, They pounced on the plunder and, taking sheep, cattle and calves, they butchered them on the ground and ate them, together with the blood. (NIV)

b. Genesis 9:4, "But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. (NIV)

c. Leviticus 17:10-13, "'Any Israelite or any alien living among them who eats any blood—I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from his people. For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. Therefore I say to the Israelites, "None of you may eat blood, nor may an alien living among you eat blood." ' 'Any Israelite or any alien living among you who hunts any animal or bird that may be eaten must drain out the blood and cover it with earth, (NIV)
d. Saul was horrified by what he heard and, in quick succession, had the men drain the animals of blood in order that they may eat properly.

i. There is a good lesson in this for us.

ii. No matter what wrong another does, that does not excuse those desiring to be faithful to God in doing wrong also.

iii. Thus, the excuses, “Well, he made me do it!” or “I could not help it because of his actions” are simply excuses that are not acceptable.

iv. People around you may understand, but the Lord knows.

e. As a result of the rash vow the people sinned.

i. As a result of Saul’s command to bring the animals to the rock before they ate, the people complied.

f. Then Saul built his first altar.

i. “This altar was probably not intended to serve as a place of sacrifice, but simply to be a memorial of the presence of God, or the revelation of God which Saul had received in the marvelous victory” (Keil and Delitzsch, E-Sword).

D. The Lord did not answer Saul (14:36-46).
1. 1 Samuel 14:36-46, Saul said, "Let us go down after the Philistines by night and plunder them till dawn, and let us not leave one of them alive." "Do whatever seems best to you," they replied. But the priest said, "Let us inquire of God here." So Saul asked God, "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will you give them into Israel's hand?" But God did not answer him that day. Saul therefore said, "Come here, all you who are leaders of the army, and let us find out what sin has been committed today. As surely as the LORD who rescues Israel lives, even if it lies with my son Jonathan, he must die." But not one of the men said a word. Saul then said to all the Israelites, "You stand over there; I and Jonathan my son will stand over here." "Do what seems best to you," the men replied. Then Saul prayed to the LORD, the God of Israel, "Give me the right answer." And Jonathan and Saul were taken by lot, and the men were cleared. Saul said, "Cast the lot between me and Jonathan my son." And Jonathan was taken. Then Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done." So Jonathan told him, "I merely tasted a little honey with the end of my staff. And now must I die?" Saul said, "May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if you do not die, Jonathan." But the men said to Saul, "Should Jonathan die—he who has brought about this great deliverance in Israel? Never! As surely as the LORD lives, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground, for he did this today with God's help." So the men rescued Jonathan, and he was not put to death. Then Saul stopped pursuing the Philistines, and they withdrew to their own land. (NIV)
2. During the evening, when Saul’s men were being replenished (if you will) Saul expressed his desire to lead his men to the Philistines in order to “wipe them out.”

   a. The Philistines were in confusion and the darkness of the evening would allow for cover and reprieve.

3. The priest, Ahijah, slowed down the enthusiasm in order to find the Lord’s will.

   a. It was a good thing he did so because Saul might have been on the verge of being slaughtered.

4. Since there was no answer, Saul set out to ascertain why.

   a. It is at this point that one might notice a difference between the NKJV and the ESV.

   i. The ESV reads: “Therefore Saul said, ‘O LORD God of Israel, why have you not answered your servant this day? If this guilt is in me or in Jonathan my son, O LORD, God of Israel, give Urim. But if this guilt is in your people Israel, give Thummim.’ And Jonathan and Saul were taken, but the people escaped.” (14:41).

   ii. Compare this with the NKJV: “Give a perfect lot.”
iii. The NIV reads: “Give me the right answer.” In the margin of the NKJV and the NIV, is the rendering of the ESV.

iv. Why the variance? The reading, as found in the ESV, is also in the LXX, which has a strong presumption for accuracy (in this respect; cf. Youngblood, p. 668).

5. The army was divided, separated between Saul (his son) and them.

   a. Lots were cast and the Lord chose Saul and Jonathan.

   b. Lots were cast again and Jonathan was chosen.

   c. The NIV poses Jonathan’s remark as a question, whereas the NKJV presents it more literally as a fact.

      i. With the NIV suggestion, there is something out of proportion between Saul’s charge and the penalty for disobedience.

   d. According to the rendering in the NKJV and the words of Josephus, Jonathan was prepared, like a man, to take his punishment.

6. At this point, the army did not allow a great victory by Jonathan to go unrewarded.

   a. They stepped in and prevented Saul from doing as he had given orders to be done.
7. Saul and his army went home.

8. It seems strange that Jonathan, who had won a great victory earlier because the Lord was with him, should be identified by the Lord as the one who had sinned.

a. His sin?

i. He disobeyed Saul’s command.

ii. It also seems strange that the sin was disobedience to Saul’s command.

b. However, one thing this chapter points out, especially in this section, is that Saul was a man ‘moved’ by the people.

i. This is important when the next chapter is considered.

1 Samuel 14:47-52, After Saul had assumed rule over Israel, he fought against their enemies on every side: Moab, the Ammonites, Edom, the kings of Zobah, and the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he inflicted punishment on them. He fought valiantly and defeated the Amalekites, delivering Israel from the hands of those who had plundered them. Saul's sons were Jonathan, Ishvi and Malki-Shua. The name of his older daughter was Merab, and that of the younger was Michal. His wife's name was Ahinoam daughter of Ahimaaz. The name of the commander of Saul's army was Abner son of Ner, and Ner was Saul's uncle. Saul's father Kish and Abner's father Ner were sons of Abiel. All the days of Saul there was bitter war with the Philistines, and whenever Saul saw a mighty or brave man, he took him into his service. (NIV)
I. Summary of king Saul’s reign (14:47-52).

A. Saul established his kingdom, his sovereignty over Israel (14:47-48).

1. 1 Samuel 14:47-48, After Saul had assumed rule over Israel, he fought against their enemies on every side: Moab, the Ammonites, Edom, the kings of Zobah, and the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he inflicted punishment on them. He fought valiantly and defeated the Amalekites, delivering Israel from the hands of those who had plundered them. (NIV)

2. It is interesting to note with respect to biblical history that Saul was victorious on some occasions, but not consistently so.

a. As a matter of fact, we would think that Saul was so consumed by his attempts to kill David that his reign was an abject failure.

b. However, this was not the case according to 14:47, and Josephus.

i. “Saul had also a great many chariots and horsemen, and against whomsoever he made war he returned conqueror, and advanced the affairs of the Hebrews to a great degree of success and prosperity and made them superior to other nations; and he made such of the young men as were remarkable for tallness and comeliness the guards of his body” (E-Sword).

B. Saul’s family.
1. 1 Samuel 14:49-51, Saul's sons were Jonathan, Ishvi and Malki-Shua. The name of his older daughter was Merab, and that of the younger was Michal. His wife's name was Ahinoam daughter of Ahimaaz. The name of the commander of Saul's army was Abner son of Ner, and Ner was Saul's uncle. Saul's father Kish and Abner's father Ner were sons of Abiel. (NIV)

   a. Saul’s children consisted of three sons and two daughters.

      i. The sons; Jonathan, Jishui (Abinadab), Malchishua.

      ii. The daughters: Mereb and Michal.

2. “This list differs from others. In 1 Samuel 31:2, (1 Chronicles 10:2), Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malki-Shua are listed as Saul’s sons, while 1 Chronicles 8:33 and 9:39 list Jonathan, Malki-Shua, Abinadab, and Eshbaal” (NET, footnote).

   a. 1 Samuel 31:2, The Philistines pressed hard after Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua. (NIV)

   b. The Philistines pressed hard after Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua. (NIV)

   c. 1 Chronicles 8:33, Ner was the father of Kish, Kish the father of Saul, and Saul the
father of Jonathan, Malki-Shua, Abinadab and Esh-Baal. (NIV)

d. 1 Chronicles 9:39, Ner was the father of Kish, Kish the father of Saul, and Saul the father of Jonathan, Malki-Shua, Abinadab and Esh-Baal. (NIV)

e. “In these passages in the Chronicles there is a fourth mentioned, Eshbaal, i.e., the one who is called Ish-bosheth in 2 samuel 2:8, etc., and who was set up by Abner as the antagonist of David. The reason why he is not mentioned here it is impossible to determine” (Kiel and Delitzsch, E-Sword).
Questions

1 Samuel 14:1-52

(Questions based on NIV text.)

1. “Now a ____________ of __________________ had gone out to the _________________ at _______________. One day ___________ _________________ of ________________ said to the ______________ ______________ ________________ his ____________, ‘Come, let’s go over to the ______________ _________________ on the other side.’ But he did not tell his ________________.”

2. Why did Jonathan not inform the king of his plans in regard to the Philistine outpost? ____________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

3. “_________________________ was ________________ on the _________________ of ______________ under a ____________ tree in ________________. With him were about _________________ men, among whom was ________________. He was a son of _________________’s _________________ _________________ son of ________________, the son of ________________, the _________________’s ________________. In ________________. No one was ________________ that ________________ had ________________.”
4. Exactly what was Ahijah wearing? Why was he attired in this manner? Was he properly dressed?

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

5. Locate Migron.

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

6. “On each _______________ of the _______________ that _______________ intended to _______________ to reach the _______________ _______________ was a _______________; one was called _________________, and the other _________________. One ________________ stood to the _______________ toward _______________.”

7. “_______________ said to his _______________ _______________ - _______________’ _________________, let’s go over to the _______________ of those _______________ _______________. Perhaps the _______________ will _______________ in our _______________. _______________ can _______________ the _______________ from _______________, whether by _______________ or by _______________.”

8. Give biblical examples of God’s saving by many. Give biblical examples of God’s saving by few.

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________

______________________________________________________
9. What motivated Jonathan’s actions, courage, faith, foolhardiness, etc.? Give reasons for your answer. ____________

10. ‘Do all that you have in _____________,’ his _______________ - _______________ said. ‘_____________________; I am with you _______________ and _______________.’

11. What differences would result if all Christians were united in heart and soul? What differences would result if this unity existed in families, businesses, our country? ________________

12. “__________________ said, ‘__________________, then; we will _______________ over _______________ the _______________ and let them _______________ us. If they say to us, ‘__________________ there _______________ until we _______________ to you,’ we will _______________ where we are and not go up to _______________. But if they say, ‘__________________ up to us,’ we will _______________ up, because that will be our _______________ that the _______________ has _______________ them into our _______________.’”
13. Was the response by the Philistines a true sign from God or just an indication of their vulnerability or lack thereof as interpreted by the warrior Jonathan? Explain your answer.

14. “So both of them ___________________________ to the ___________________________.
   ‘____________________!’ said the ___________________________.
   ‘The ___________________________ are ___________________________ out of the ___________________________ they were ___________________________ in.’ The ___________________________ of the ___________________________ to ___________________________ and his ___________________________, ‘____________________ up to us, and we’ll ___________________________ you a ___________________________.’”

15. What lesson were the Philistines intending to teach Jonathan?

16. “So ___________________________ said to his ___________________________, ‘____________________ up after me; the ___________________________ has given them into the ___________________________ of ___________________________.’”

17. “____________________ ___________________________ up, using his ___________________________ and ___________________________, with is ___________________________ - ___________________________ ___________________________.

____________________ him. The ____________________
____________________ before ____________________, and his
____________________-____________________ and ____________
____________________ him. In that ____________________ and his
____________________-____________________ some ______________
____________________ in an ____________________ of about ____________________ an __________________.__”

18. Define *half a yoke*. How does this expression relate to *half an acre*?

19. “Then ____________________ struck the ____________________ - those in the ____________________ and
______________________, and those in the ____________________ and ____________________ - and the
______________________. It was a ____________________ sent by ____________________.”

20. “______________________’s ____________________ at
______________________ in ____________________ saw the
______________________. then ____________________ said to the
______________________ who were with him, ‘______________________
the __________________ and see who has ____________________ us.’ When they did, it was ____________________ and
his __________________-______________________ who were not there.”

21. “______________________ said to ____________________, ‘Bring
the __________________ of ____________________.’ (At that time it
was with the __________________.) While __________________
was __________________ to the ____________________,
the ________________ in the _______________ _____________
_________________________ more and ____________________.
So __________________ said to the ________________,
‘________________ your __________________.’ ”

22. The Ark of the Covenant did not bring victory in 1 Samuel 4:1-22. Why did Saul think it would bring success on this occasion?

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

23. What does withdraw your hand mean? ___________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

24. “Then __________________ and all his ________________
__________________ and went to the ____________________.
They found the ________________ in _________________
_______________, _____________________ each other with
their __________________. Those ________________ who
had __________________ been with the ________________ and
had __________________ up with them to their ________________
went over to the ________________ who were with
__________________ and __________________. When all the
__________________ who had __________________ in
the __________________ of __________________ heard that the __________________ were on the
__________________, they __________________ in the
So the__________ ____________ ____________ that day, and the______________________ moved on beyond ___________________________.”

25. What was or should have been done with the Israelite defectors? Speak to the wisdom/courage of the Israelites who had hidden until the battle turned to Israel’s favor. How important is timing in all aspects of life?

26. “Now the__________ of ____________ were in ______________ that ________________, because ________________ had ________________ the ________________ an ________________, saying, ‘______________ be any ________________ who comes, before I have ________________ myself on my ________________!’ So ________________ of the ________________ ________________ ________________.”

27. How wise or unwise was Saul’s decision not to allow his army to eat until victory had been achieved? Give evidence to support your answer.

28. “The ____________ ____________ ____________
the ___________________, and there was ______________ on the __________________. when they went into the __________________, they saw the __________________ out, yet no one put his __________________ to his ______________, because they ______________ the __________________. But __________________ had not heard that his ______________ had ______________ the _______________ with the __________________, so he ______________________ out the __________________ of the __________________ that was in his ________________ and ______________________ it into the __________________. He ______________________ his __________________ to his ______________, and his ______________ ________ ______________. Then one of the __________________ told him, ‘Your ________________ _________________ the __________________ under a ___________________ saying, ‘____________________ be any man who __________________________ today!’ That is why the ________________ are __________________.”

29. Did Jonathan sin by eating before the battle was concluded? Remember that he knew nothing of the oath with which Saul had bound the army.

30. “____________________ said, ‘My __________________ has made ________________ for the _________________. See how my __________________ ________ ________ when I ______________________ a ___________________ of this _________________. How much better it would have been if
the ___________ had ___________ ____________
some of the _____________ they took from their ________
________________. Would not the _________________ of
the _________________ have been even _________________?’ ”

31. “That day, after the _____________ had _______________
______________ from ___________, they were _________________. They
______________ on the ________________ and,
taking ________________ ________________ and ________________, they ________________ them on
the ________________ and ________________ the, together with the ________________. Then someone said to
______________, ‘______________, the ___________
are ________________ against the ________________ by
______________ ________________ that has
______________ ________________ in it.’ ”

32. What did the starving army do wrong? Why was this wrong?
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________

33. What responsibility did Saul have in producing conditions that
led the army to sin? ____________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
34. Locate Aijalon. ___________________________ 
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

35. “‘You have _________________________ __________________,’
he said. ‘___________ a ________________________
on here at _______________________.’ Then he said, ‘Go out
among the men and tell them, ‘_______________ of you bring
me your ______________________ and ____________________, and
_______________ them here and ________________________ them.
Do not __________________ against the ________________ by
__________________________ with ______________________ still in it.’”

36. “So ______________________  _____________________ his
_______________ that ______________________ and
_______________ it there. Then ________________ built and
_______________ to the ________________; it was the
_______________ ________________ he had ________________.”

37. Did Saul sin here in functioning as a priest in building an altar?
Give reasons for your answer. ____________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

38. “________________________ said, ‘Let us go down after
the ______________________ by ______________________ and
_______________ them till ________________ and let us not
_______________ ________________ of them______________.’”
39. “‘Do whatever seems best to you,’ they replied.” Is this a good thing for an informed citizenry to say to rulers? ____________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

41. “So ________________ asked ________________, ‘Shall I go down after the __________? Will you give them into ________________’s _________________?’ But ________________ did not ________________ him that ________________.”

42. How, in what manner, through what procedure did Saul present this question to God? ____________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

43. When God did not answer, what conclusion did Saul reach as a result of God’s lack of response? What did Saul think this lack of response meant? ____________________________________________________________
44. “________________ therefore said, ‘________________
____________________, all you who are _____________ of
the __________________, and let us find out what
____________________ has been ________________ today. As
surely as the __________________ who __________________
__________________________ _________________, even if it
___________________________ with my ________________
______________, he must __________________.’ But ______
____________________________ ______________ of the
____________________________ said a ________________.”

45. Was Saul’s statement in verse 39 wise and prudent or rash,
reckless and ill advised? Give reasons for your answer.

46. “________________ then said to all the _____________,
“Your _______________ and __________ my _______________
will ________________ ________________ here.’ ”

47. “ ‘Do what _______________ _________________ to __________,’
the _______________ _________________.” See question 39.
48. “Then ___________________ ______________________ to the
________________, the ______________ of ______________;
‘________________ me the ______________ ______________.’
And __________________ and __________________ were
________________. ______________ said, ‘________________
the ______________ between __________________ and
________________ my ______________.’ And ____________
was taken.”

49. Give the procedure for casting lots as a means of reaching conclusions. What was involved? ____________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________

50. Give biblical examples of the casting of lots to determine (a) God’s will and (b) to make decisions based on chance. List these examples separately in two groups. _________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________

51. How could it be determined whether the results of a specific casting of lots was an expression of God’s will or simply the results of chance? ________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
______________________________________________________
52. "Then ______________ said to ______________, ‘______________ _______________ what ______________ ________________ ________________.’ So ______________ told him, ‘______________ ______________ merely ______________ a ________________ ________________ with the ________________ of my _________________. And now must ______________ ________________? ’ ______________ said, ‘May ________________ deal with me, be it ever so ________________, if you do not ________________, ________________.’”

53. How would you like to have Saul as your father?

54. "But the ______________ said to ______________, ‘Should ______________ ______________ - he who has brought about this ______________ in ______________? ______________.’ As surely as the ______________ ______________, not a ________________ of his ______________ will ________________ to the ________________, for he did this ________________ with ______________’s ______________ ________________.’ So the ________________ ________________ ________________, and he was ______________ ________________.”

55. Reconcile the developments in this case, especially God’s failure to answer Saul, Jonathan’s being found responsible and no penalty’s being visited on Jonathan.
56. By their withstanding Saul in verse 45, did the men of Israel put their own lives in danger?

57. “Then ______________ _______________ _____________
the ______________, and they _______________ 
to their _______________ _______________. Who
withdrew to their own land?”

58. “After _______________ had _______________ over _______________, he _______________
against their _______________ on every ______________: _______________, the _______________, _______________,
_______________ the _______________ of ______________,
and the _______________. Wherever he turned, he _______________
_______________ _________________ on them. He
_______________ _________________ and _______________
the _______________, delivering _________________ from
the _______________ of those who had _________________
them.”

59. “_______________’s _______________ were
_______________, _________________ and _______________-

the name of his ______________________ was ______________, and that of the ______________________ was ______________.  His ______________________’s name was ______________ __________ of ___________________.  the name of the ______________________ of ______________________’s ______________________ was ______________ ______________ of ______________________, and ______________ was ______________’s ______________________.  ______________’s ______________________ and ______________’s ______________________ were ______________ of ______________________.”

60. “All the ______________________ of ______________________ there was ________________ with the ______________, and whenever ________________ saw a ______________________ or ________________ man, he took him into his ________________.”

61. Based on what is said beginning with Saul’s being anointed king through the end of 1 Samuel 14, evaluate Saul’s performance as king. What did he do well? What were his failings? ______________

62. List all of Saul’s children. Were some of these born after the time referenced in 1 Samuel 14:49? Explain your answer.
63. List all the people named in 1 Samuel 14 and give your opinion of the character and conduct of each. List them in order from the best to the worst as you perceive them.

64. How did Saul’s readiness to execute his son Jonathan for an inadvertent mistake affect Saul’s and Jonathan’s later relationship?

65. Explain how the Urim and Thummim were used to determine God’s will. What exactly were the Urim and Thummim. Compare the readings of verse 41 as found in various versions of the Old Testament.