

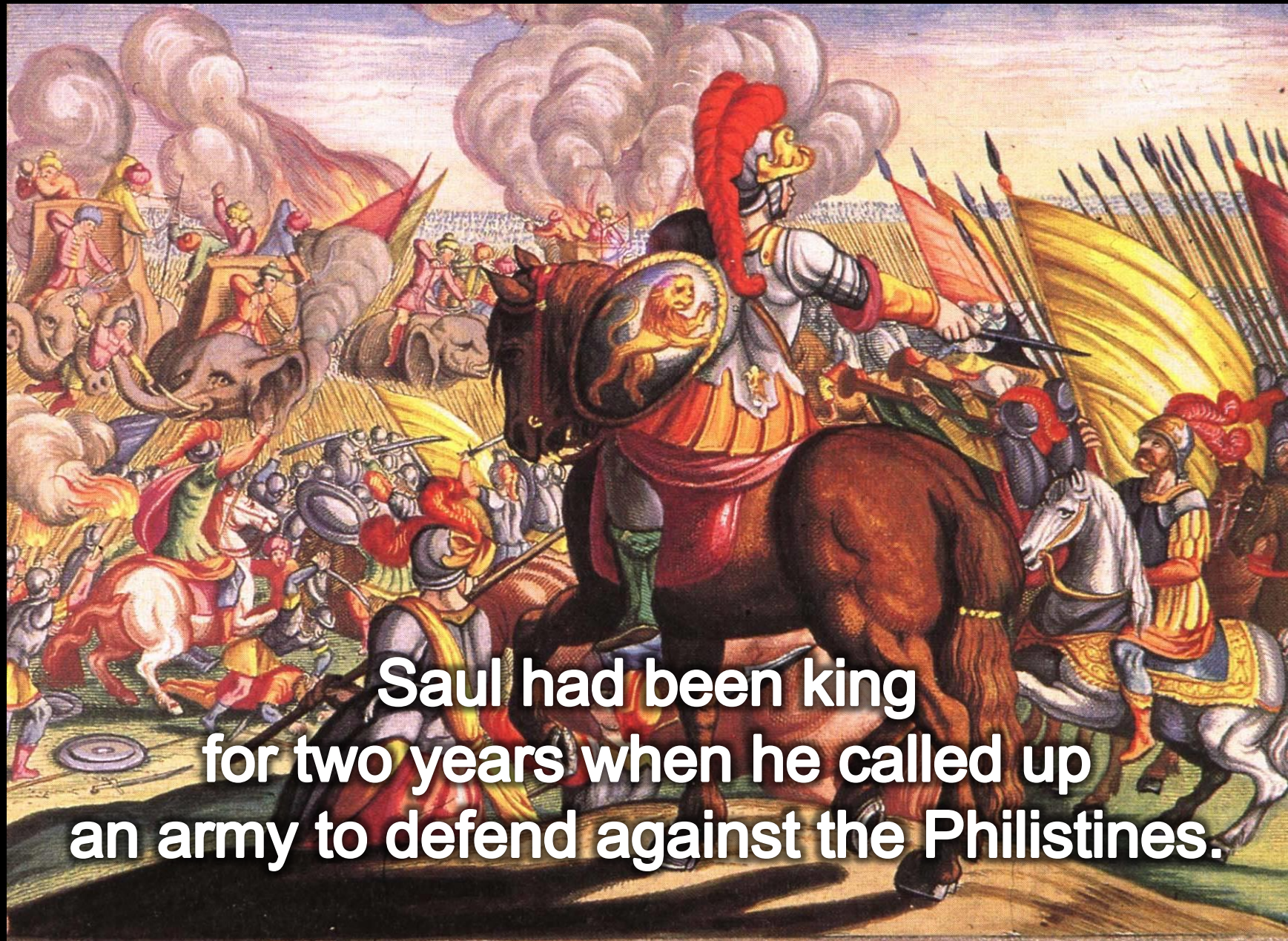
SAUL, DAVID, & SOLOMON

Lessons In Faith





I SAMUEL 13 & 14



**Saul had been king
for two years when he called up
an army to defend against the Philistines.**

1 Samuel 13

“¹Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel, ²Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel; whereof two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.”



Saul was married and already had grown sons when he became king. His son, Jonathan, was in his father's army.



Jonathan, King Saul's son

1 Samuel 13

“³And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.
⁴And all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines and the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.”

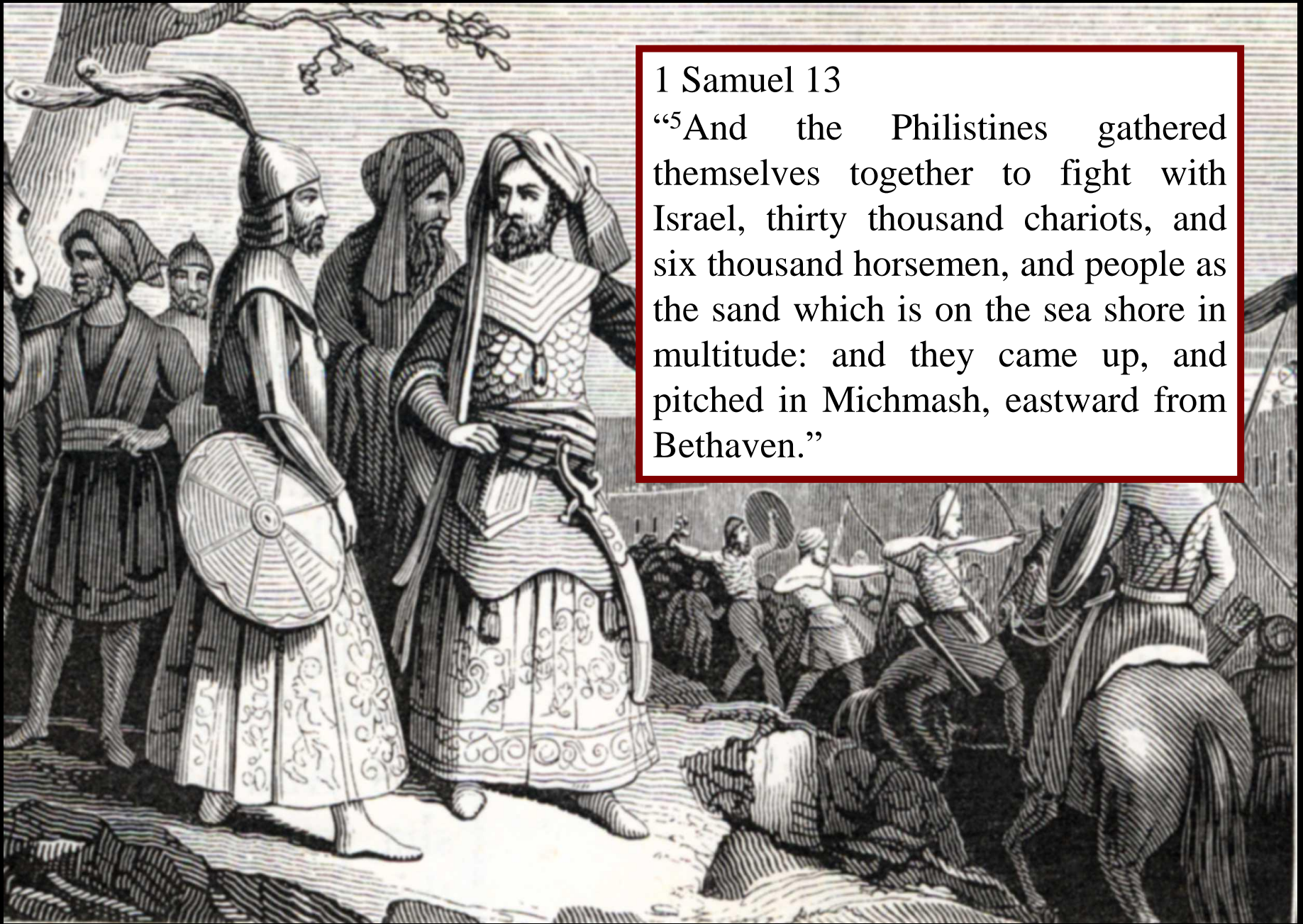


Jonathan was actually the first to strike the Philistines, but Saul blew the trumpet and told that he had smitten them.



1 Samuel 13

“⁵And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven.”



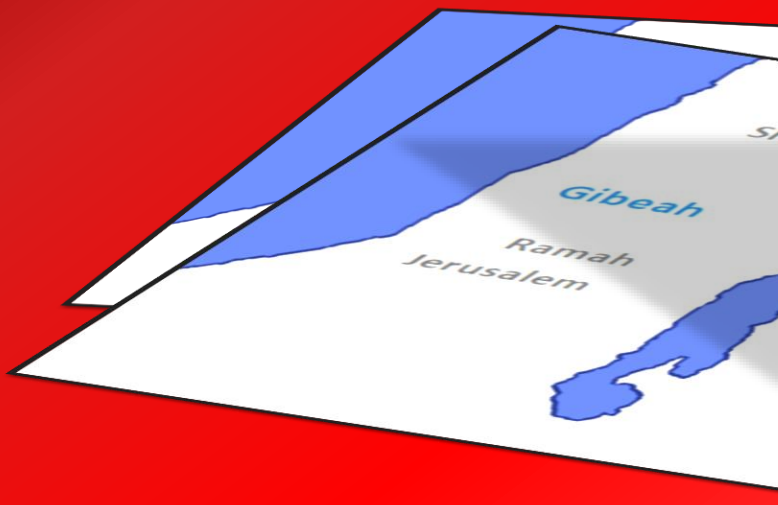
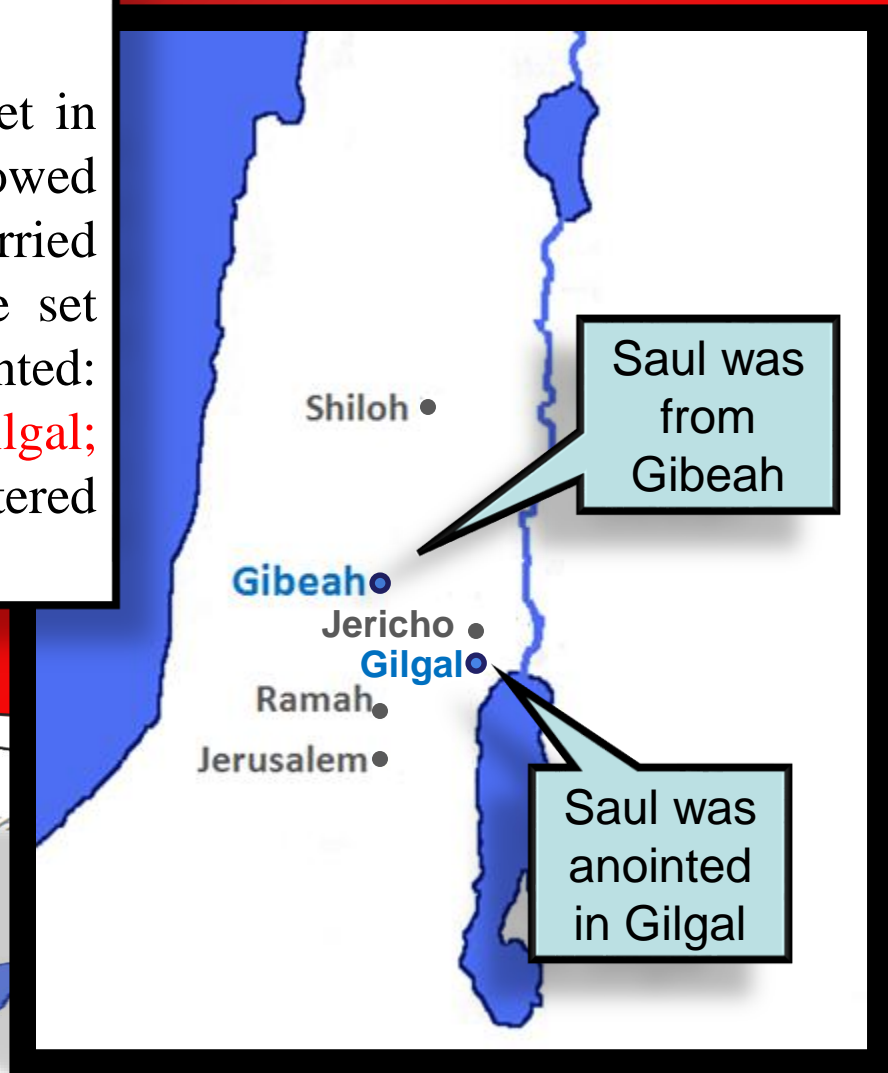
1 Samuel 13

“⁶When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits. ⁷And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead . . .”



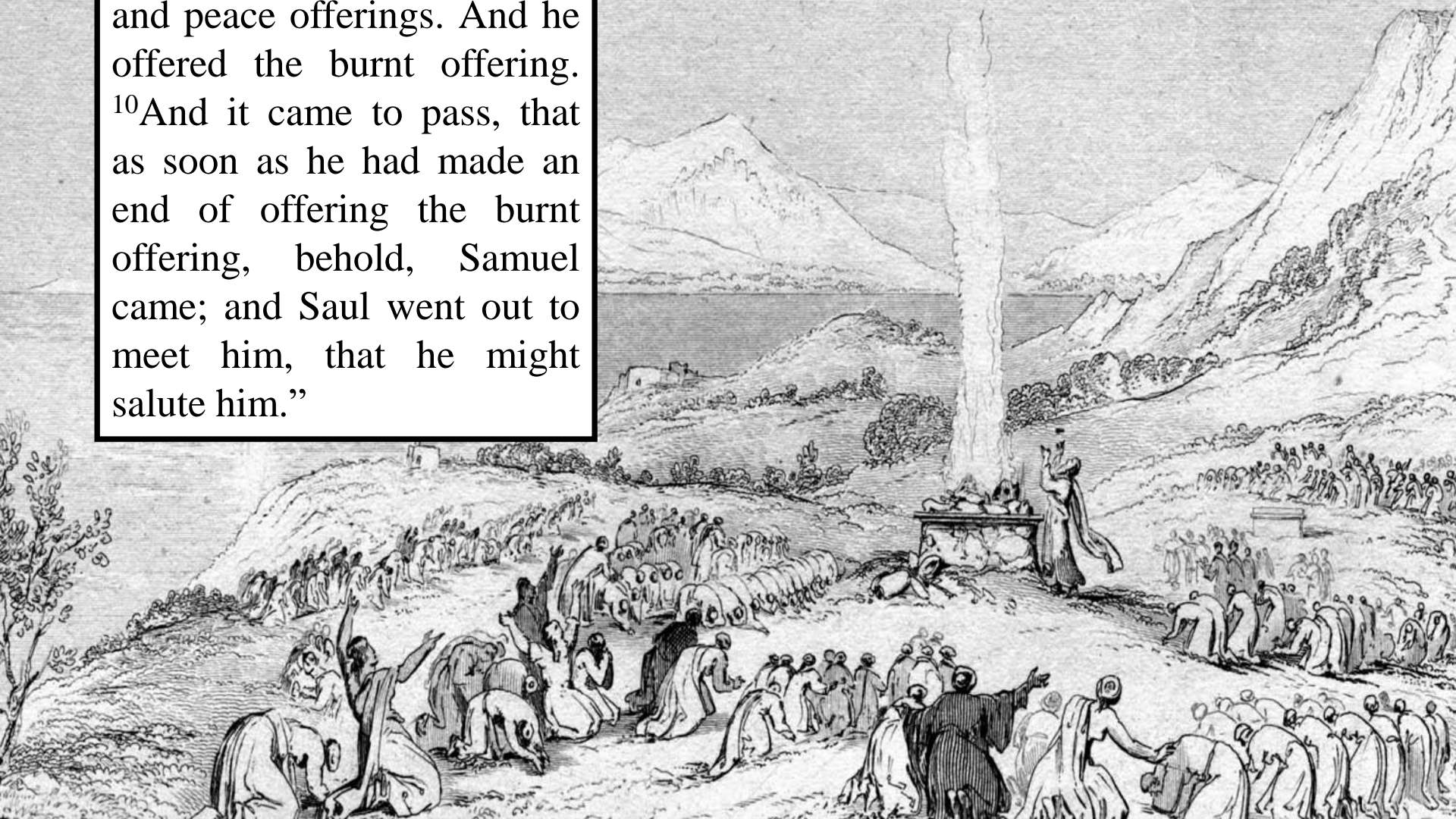
1 Samuel 13

“7. . . As for Saul, he was yet in **Gilgal**, and all the people followed him trembling. 8And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to **Gilgal**; and the people were scattered from him.”



1 Samuel 13

“⁹And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.
¹⁰And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.”



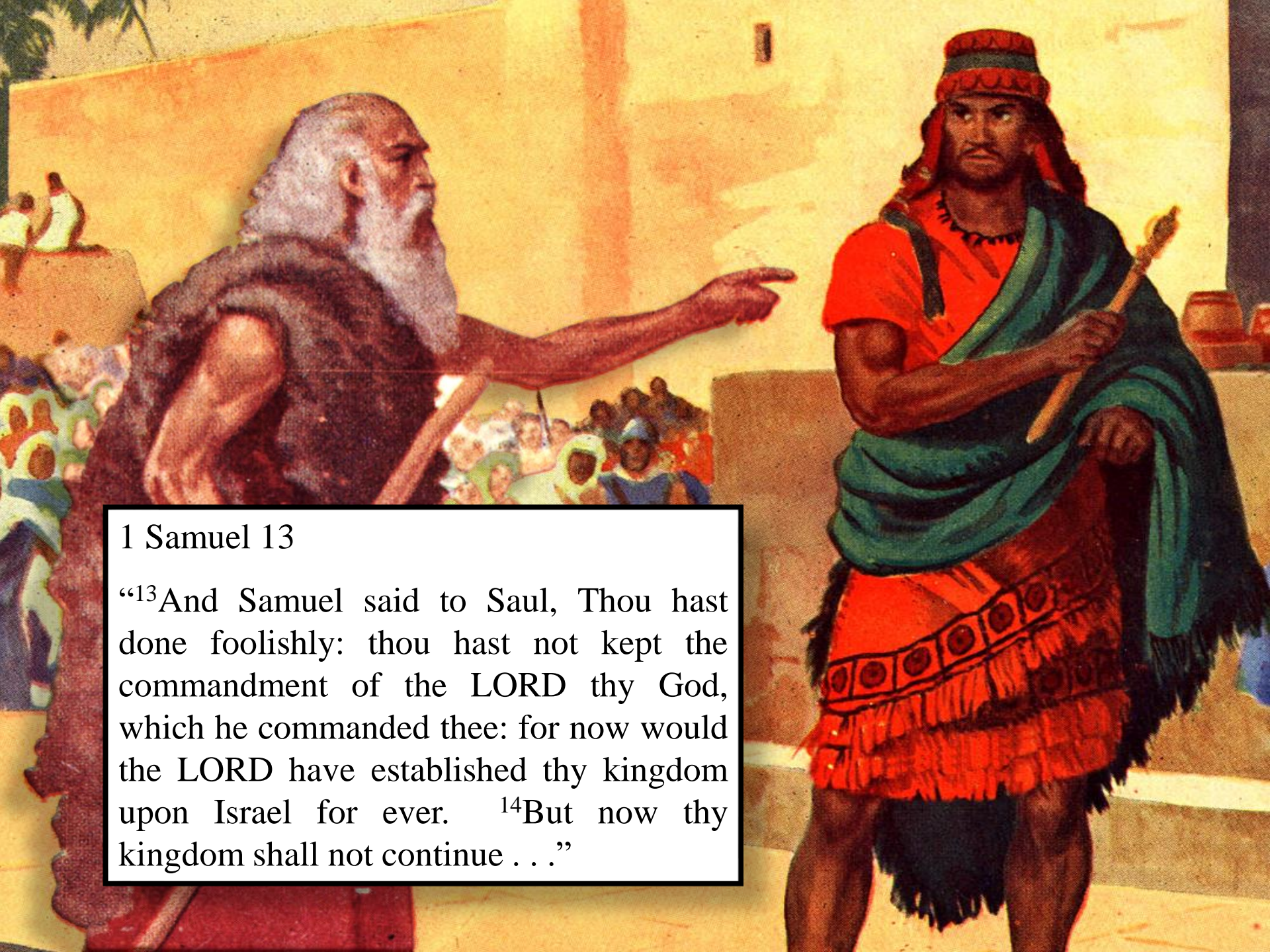


1 Samuel 13

“¹¹And Samuel said,
What hast thou done?

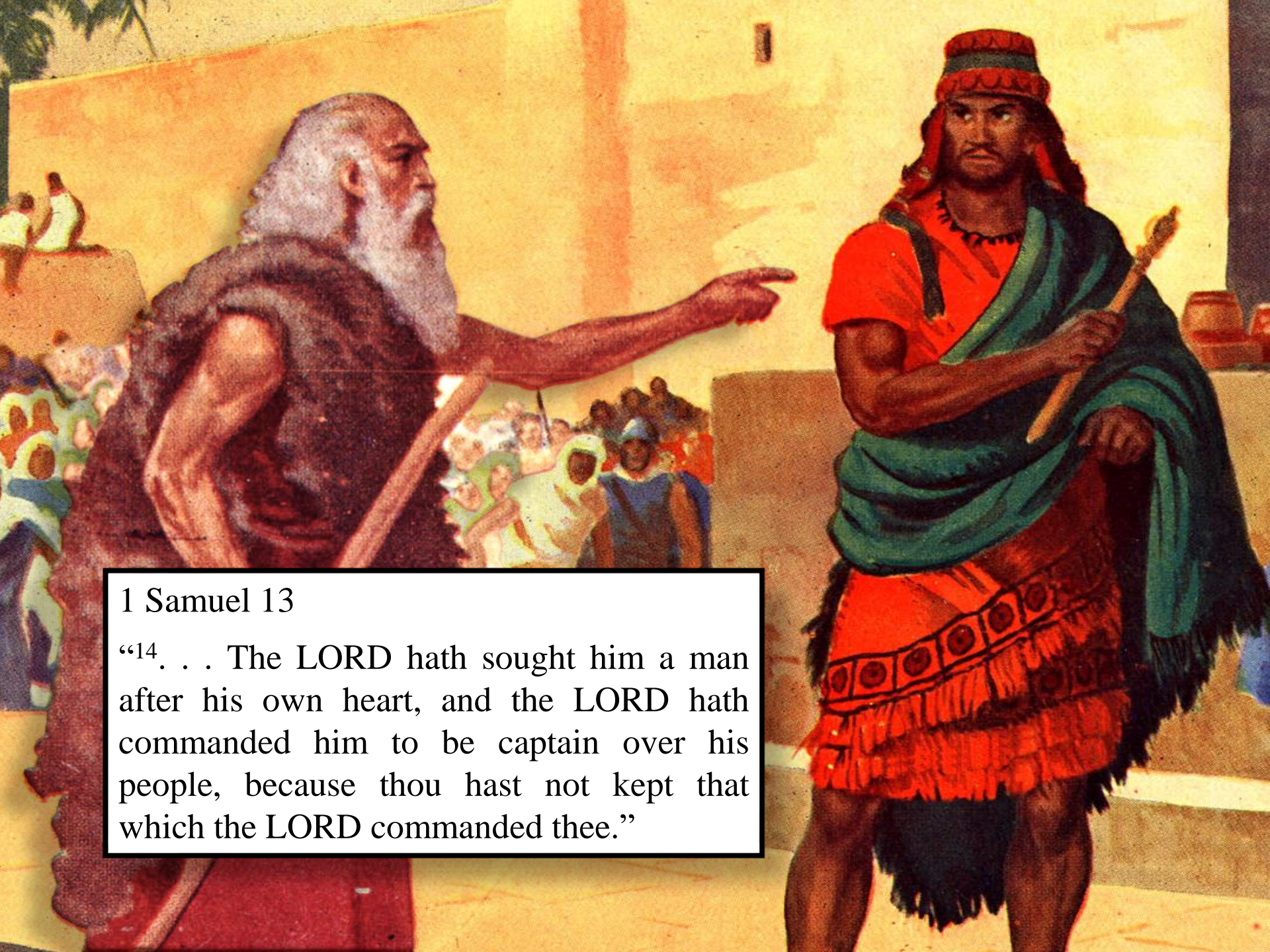
And Saul said,

Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that **thou camest not within the days appointed**, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;
¹²Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: **I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.**”



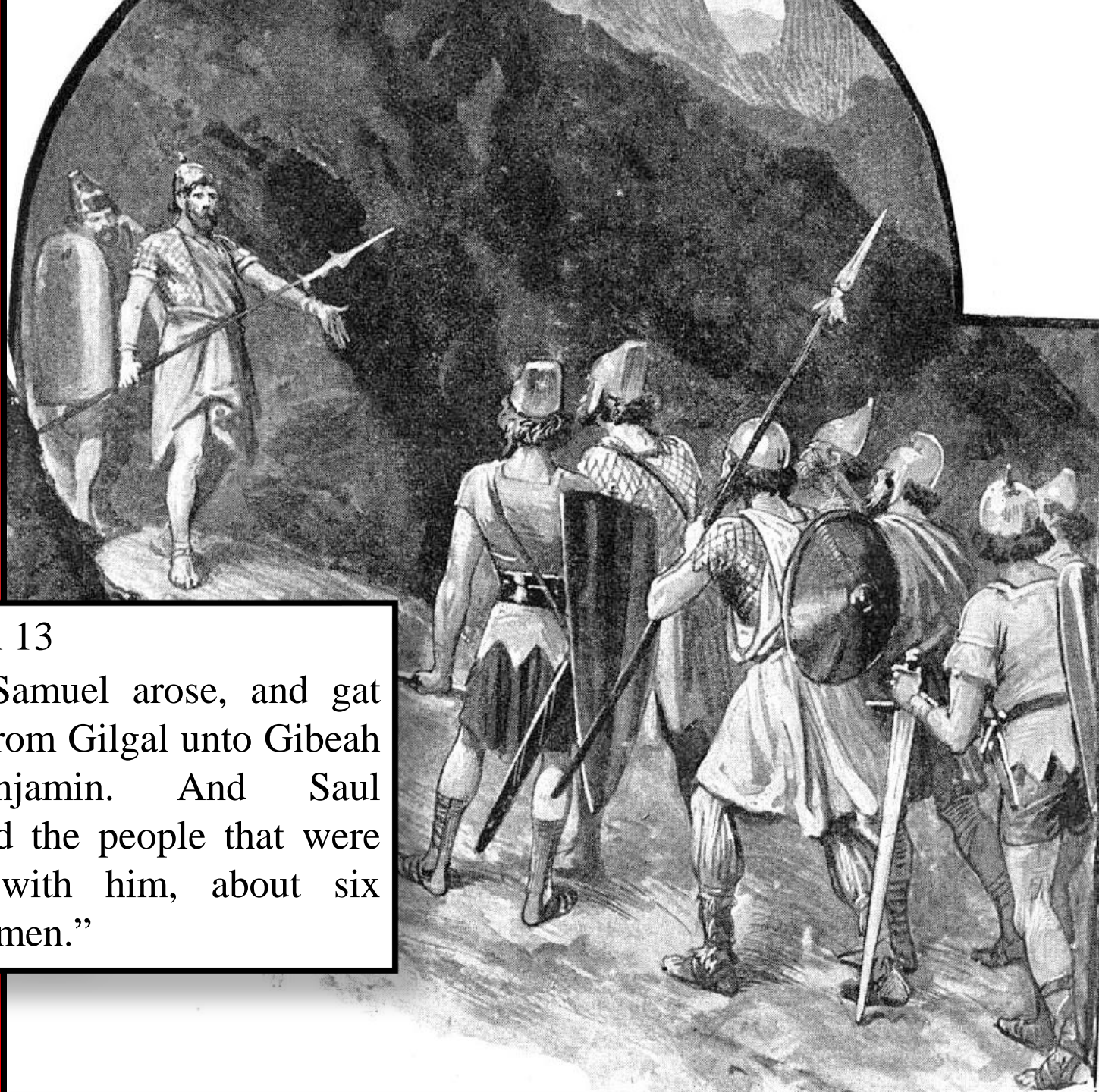
1 Samuel 13

“¹³And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. ¹⁴But now thy kingdom shall not continue . . .”



1 Samuel 13

“¹⁴. . . The LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.”

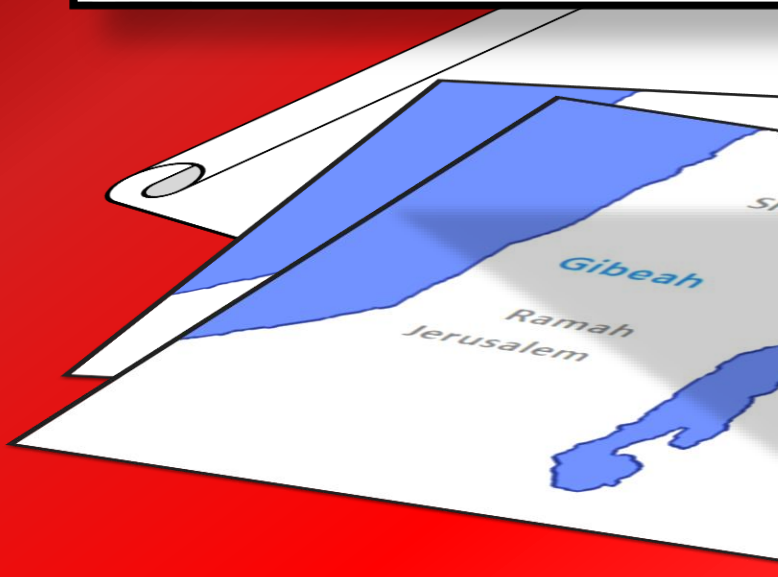


1 Samuel 13

“¹⁵And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people that were present with him, about six hundred men.”

1 Samuel 13

“¹⁶And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people that were present with them, abode in **Gibeah** of Benjamin: but the Philistines encamped in **Michmash**. ¹⁷And the spoilers came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies. . . .”



Archeology And The Bible

During the excavations of Tell el-Hesy (ancient Gibeah) conducted by W.F. Albright in two archeological campaigns of 1922 and 1933 sections of King Saul's royal castle were uncovered.



Archeology And The Bible

As Saul was only a little ruler himself, his residence was an unpretentious citadel, 170 by 110 feet in size, and two stories high. The outer walls were eight to ten feet thick. The corners were strengthened by towers.

Its largest hall, measuring 14 by 23 feet, was probably King Saul's audience chamber, where David played before the king during his melancholic spells.



Back to Chapter 13

Chapter 13



1 Samuel 13

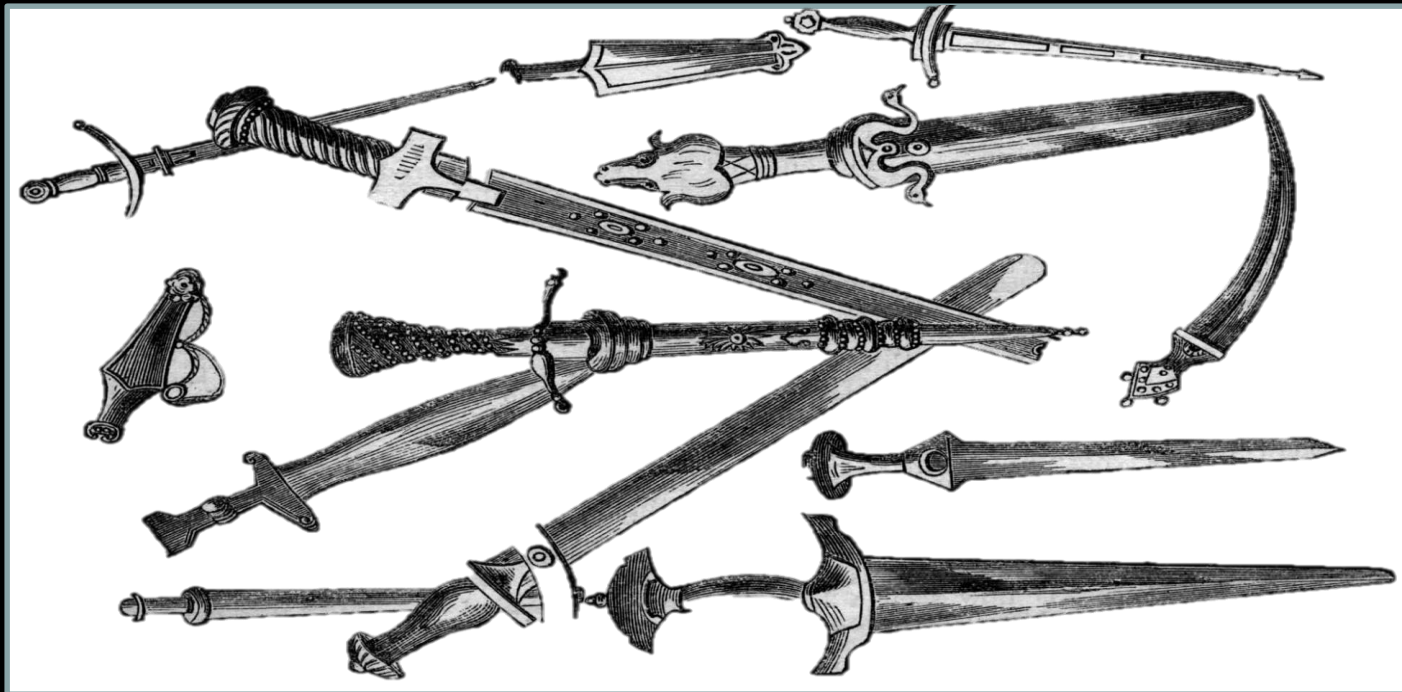
“¹⁹Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears.

²⁰But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock.

²¹Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads.”



They
sharpened
farm tools
for war.



The Israelites used their farm tools as weapons. None of them had swords or spears, except for Saul and Jonathan.

1 Samuel 13

“²³And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.”



1 Samuel 14

1 Samuel 14

“¹Now it came to pass upon a day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armor, Come, and let us go over to the Philistines’ garrison, that is on the other side. But he told not his father.”



Saul was still in Gibeah. He had about 600 men with him. The priest Ahiah the great-grandson of Eli was there with Saul wearing an ephod.



1 Samuel 14

“⁶And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armor, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.”



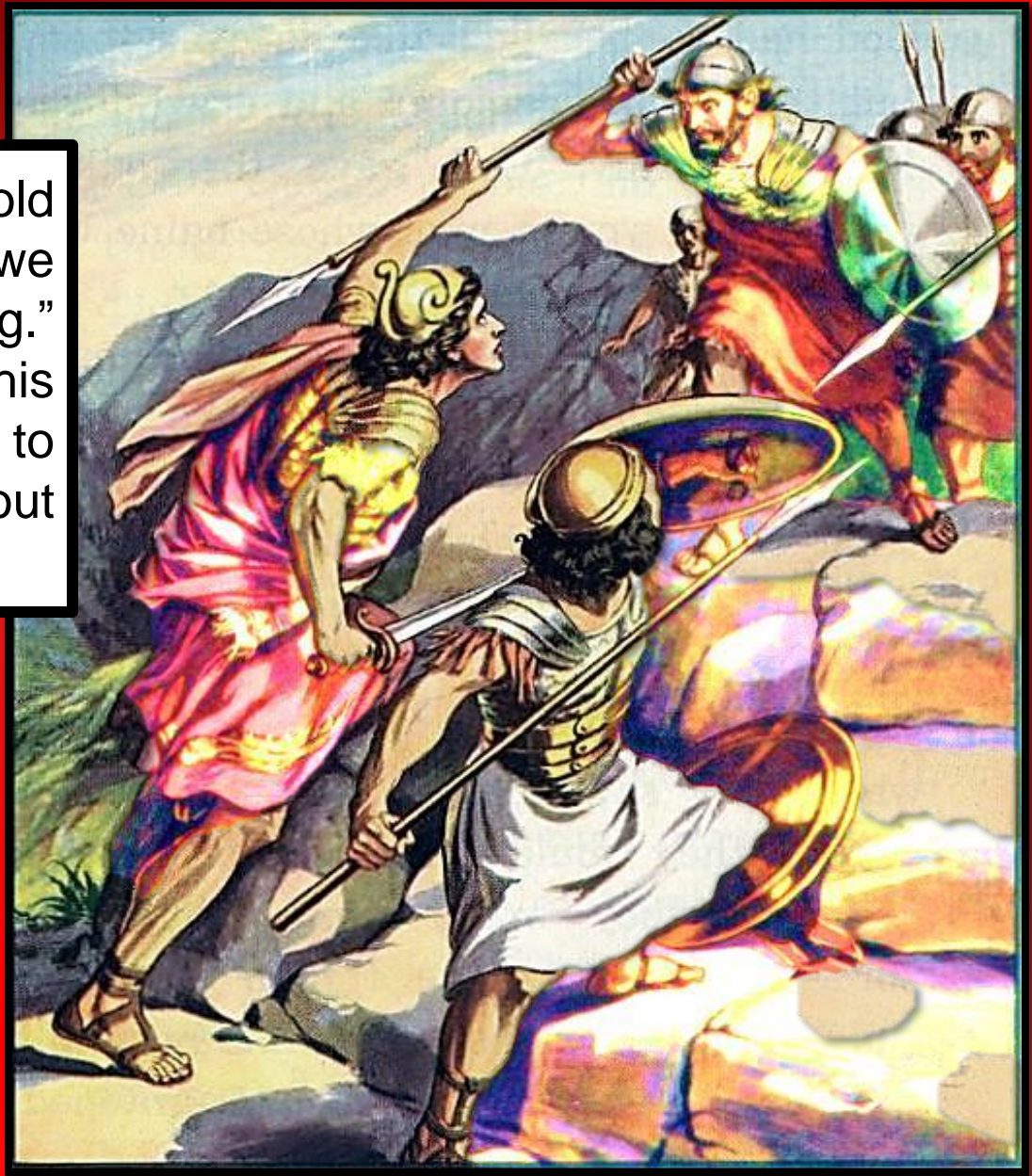
Jonathan and his armor bearer climbed over sharp rocks to reach the Philistines.

IF THIS THEN THAT:

His plan was to allow the Philistines to see them and *if* they said “come up unto us” *then* they would go up, for *that* would mean God was going to assure their victory (I Samuel 14:8ff).



The Philistines told them “Come up and we will show you a thing.” So Jonathan and his armor bearer went up to them and killed about 20 of them.



Jonathan's *if this then that* prediction is an example of how God used foretelling, prophecy, and miracles in previous ages.

Now we have the complete written Word of God and that is how he communicates to us today . . . through the Bible.

Miracles were common in the Old Testament when God communicated directly to man.



Comments From Gary McDade

Miracles in the New Testament confirmed the authority of Christ and the apostles and confirmed the words they spoke and wrote as inspired from God (John 14:11; Heb. 2:3-4). Their purpose was fulfilled in the 1st century and the performance of miracles ceased, for mankind had the written Word, the Bible.

1 Corinthians 12 addresses the nature and value of miraculous gifts to the early church, and Chapter 13 specifically foretold the ceasing of miraculous spiritual gifts and the need for them.

Today, the Holy Spirit continues to operate, but not miraculously. He teaches, convinces, comforts, strengthens, and guides through the word he has brought into existence (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

The Holy Spirit dwells in each Christian after the same manner or in the same way as do the Father and the Son, that is, representatively through the word of God. As Paul wrote, “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith” (Eph. 3:17).

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| FATHER | Dwells In Us Walks In Us We Dwell In Him | 2 Cor. 6:16 2 Cor. 6:16 1 John 4:15 |
| SON | Dwells In us Formed In Us We Dwell In Him | Col. 1:27 Gal. 4:19 2 Cor. 5:17 |
| HOLY SPIRIT | Dwells In Us Fills Us We Walk In The Spirit | Rom. 8:11 Eph. 5:18 Gal. 5:16 |

Through the Word NOT Miracles

Ephesians 6:17 is very instructional in understanding the work of the Holy Spirit. It says, "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Let's notice now concerning the Holy Spirit that the work He does...He does through His word.

The Work He Does

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| The New Birth | Jn. 3:5-8 |
| Instructs | Neh. 9:20 |
| Leads | Rom. 8:14 |
| Strengthens | Eph. 3:16 |
| Convicts | Jn. 16:8 |
| Cleanses | 1 Cor. 6:11 |
| Comforts | Acts 9:31 |

The Work He Does Through His Word

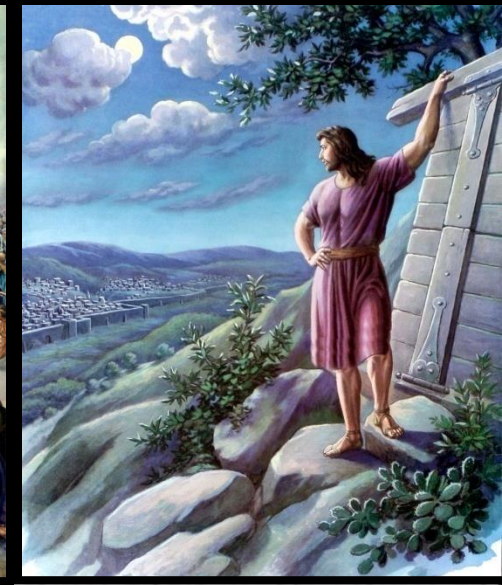
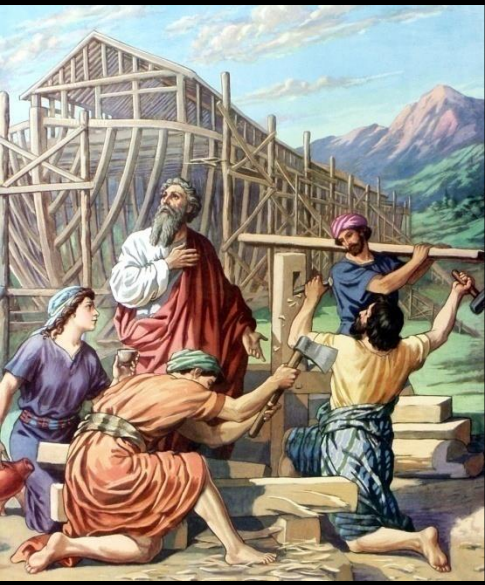
| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| The New Birth | 1 Pet. 1:22-23 |
| Instructs | 2 Tim. 3:16-17 |
| Leads | Psa. 119:105 |
| Strengthens | Acts 20:32 |
| Convicts | Tit. 1:9 |
| Cleanses | Jn. 15:3; Eph. 5:26 |
| Comforts | 1 Thess. 4:18 |

MIRACLES



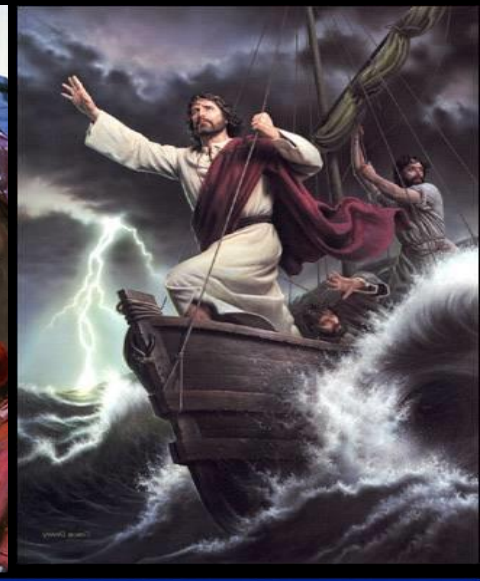
When someone believes there are miracles today they are appalled if you do not accept their claim. They talk and talk about how God did miracles for them and others, but they do not and of course, cannot prove their claim.

If you call on them to defend their assertions they will accuse you of *not believing there are miracles in the Bible*. So, let's make it clear . . . **THERE ARE MANY MIRACLES IN THE BIBLE.** There just are not any miracles now.



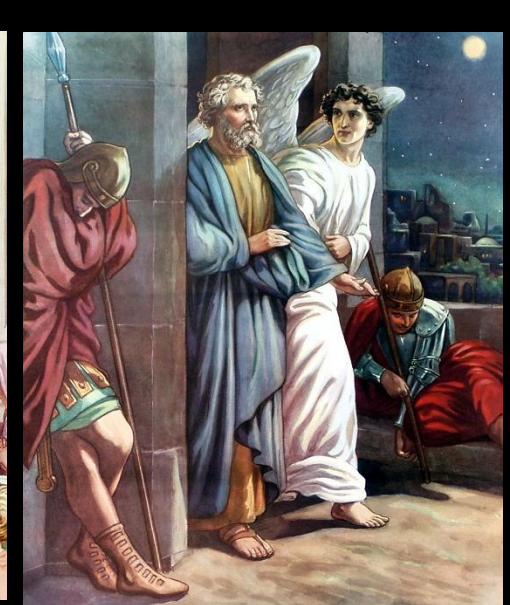
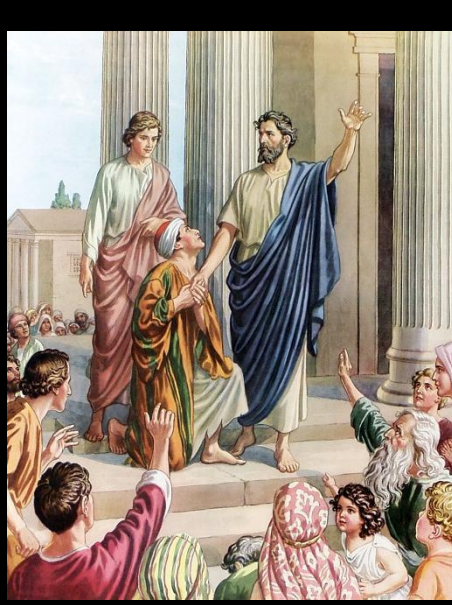
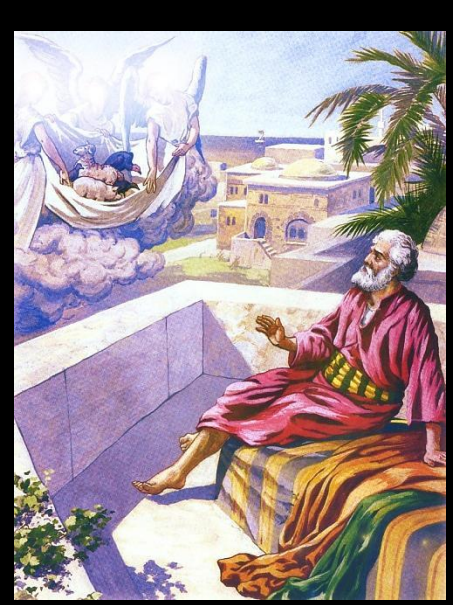
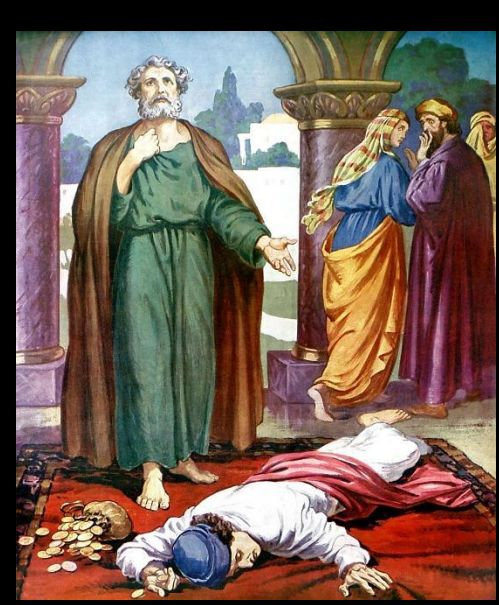
MIRACLES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT



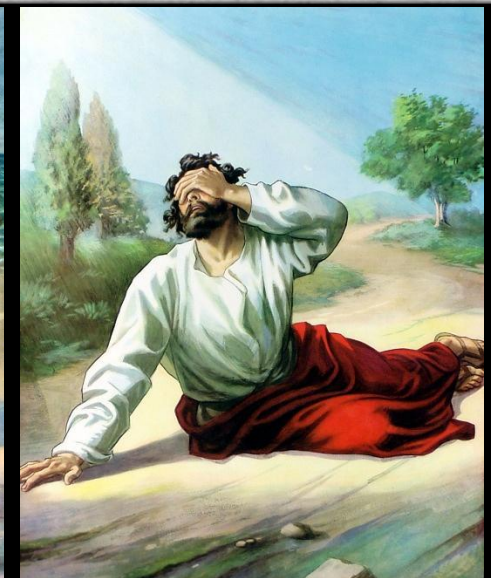
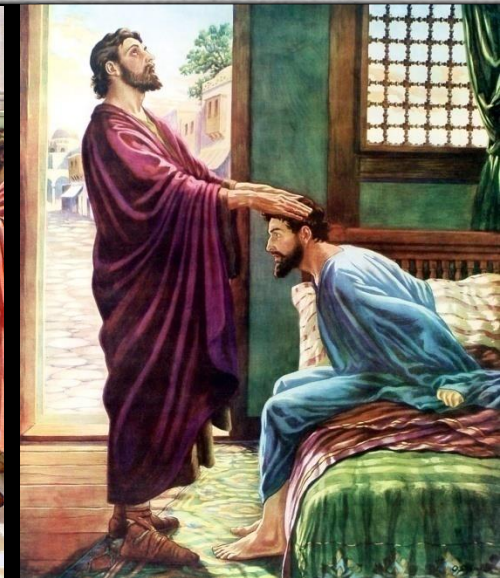


MIRACLES OF CHRIST





MIRACLES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS



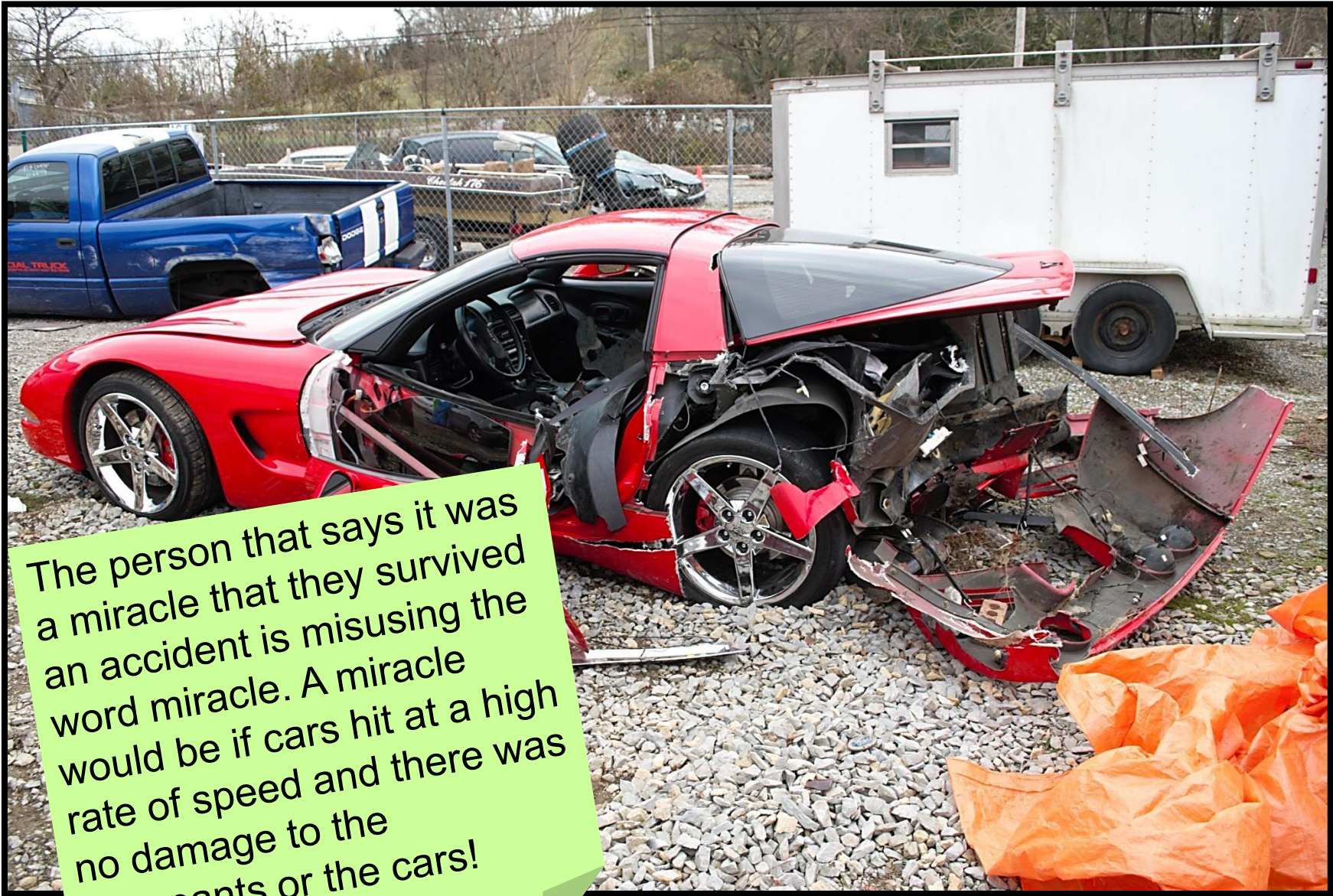
Definition of a Miracle:

A supernatural act of God.

Supernatural— beyond nature. The adjective form of **supernatural** describes anything that pertains to or is caused by something that can't be explained by the laws of nature.



**God is responsible for
“every good and perfect gift” (James 1:17)
but, they are not necessarily miracles.**



The person that says it was a miracle that they survived an accident is misusing the word miracle. A miracle would be if cars hit at a high rate of speed and there was no damage to the occupants or the cars!



If it were possible to pray for a miracle and receive it, or if people with strong faith were blessed with gifts of healing . . .

If a dying person suddenly
got up totally well . . .





Instantly Healed

It would be on TV,
on the evening news,
A MIRACLE!

KEY VERSES

Regarding Miracles

THE FIRST KEY VERSE

The 1st Key Verse is **Micah 7:15**, “According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I show unto him marvelous things.”

Marvelous things = Miraculous things

Here’s your answer as to the duration of miracles. What was the duration of the “coming out of the land of Egypt”? 40 years.

From the personal ministry of Jesus Christ to the destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem was approximately 40 years. Surely, this is something to think about in answer to the question “have miracles ceased?”



TWO MORE KEY VERSES

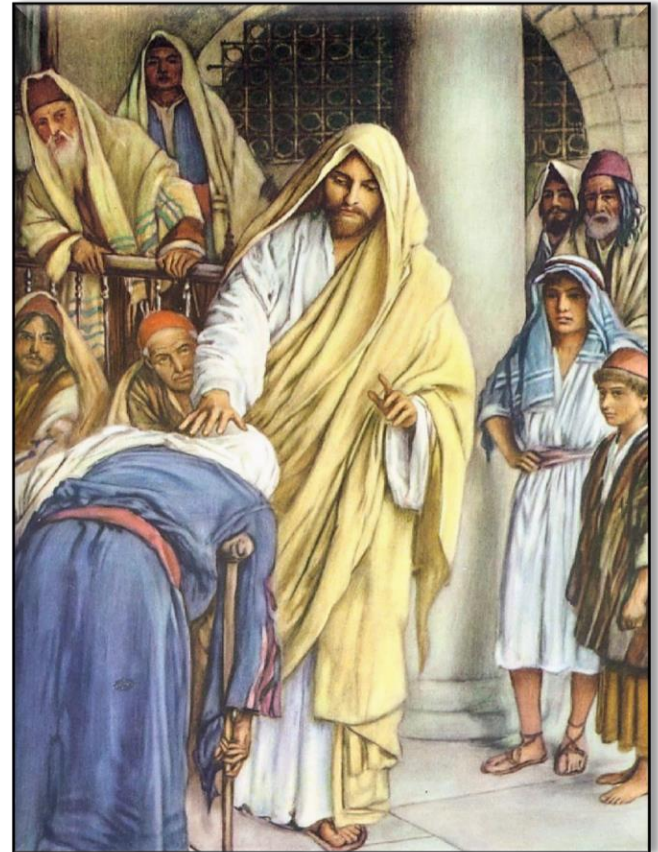
Mark 16:20 and **Hebrews 2:3-4**, show the purpose for the signs, wonders, and miracles, was **to confirm the Word of God**.

Mark 16:20

“And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and **confirming the word** with signs following. Amen.”

Hebrews 2:3-4

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and **was confirmed** unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”



THE WORD OF GOD IS COMPLETE THEREFORE, THE PURPOSE FOR MIRACLES HAS BEEN SATISFIED.

The new covenant was brought in with miracles to confirm it was from God. Once it was confirmed and recorded for us with the written word it was complete. There is no reason to be confused, disappointed, or for your faith to be weakened because God does not answer your prayer for a miracle. We do not have a right to expect a miracle. Miracles had a purpose. They were for proving that the word Christ spoke and the apostles spoke were true.

James 1:25

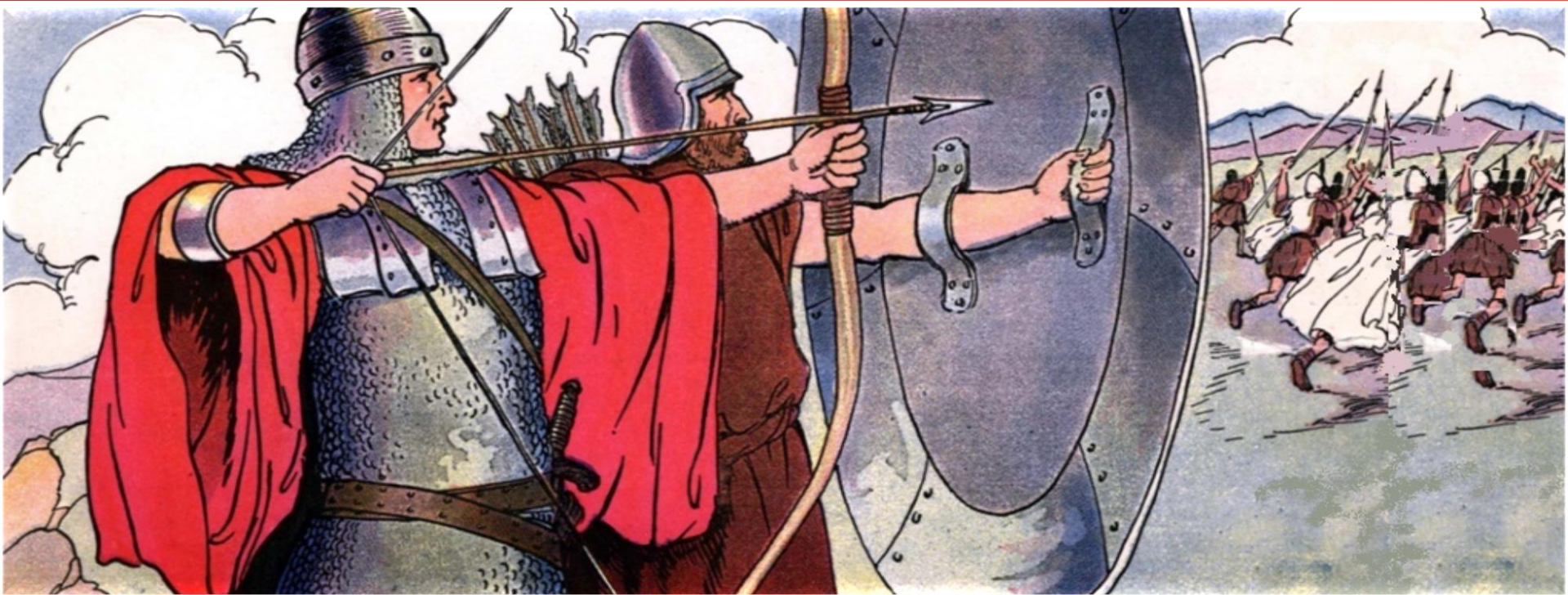
“But whoso looketh into the perfect [completed] law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly [completely] furnished unto all good works.”

BACK TO OUR TEXT

1 Samuel 14

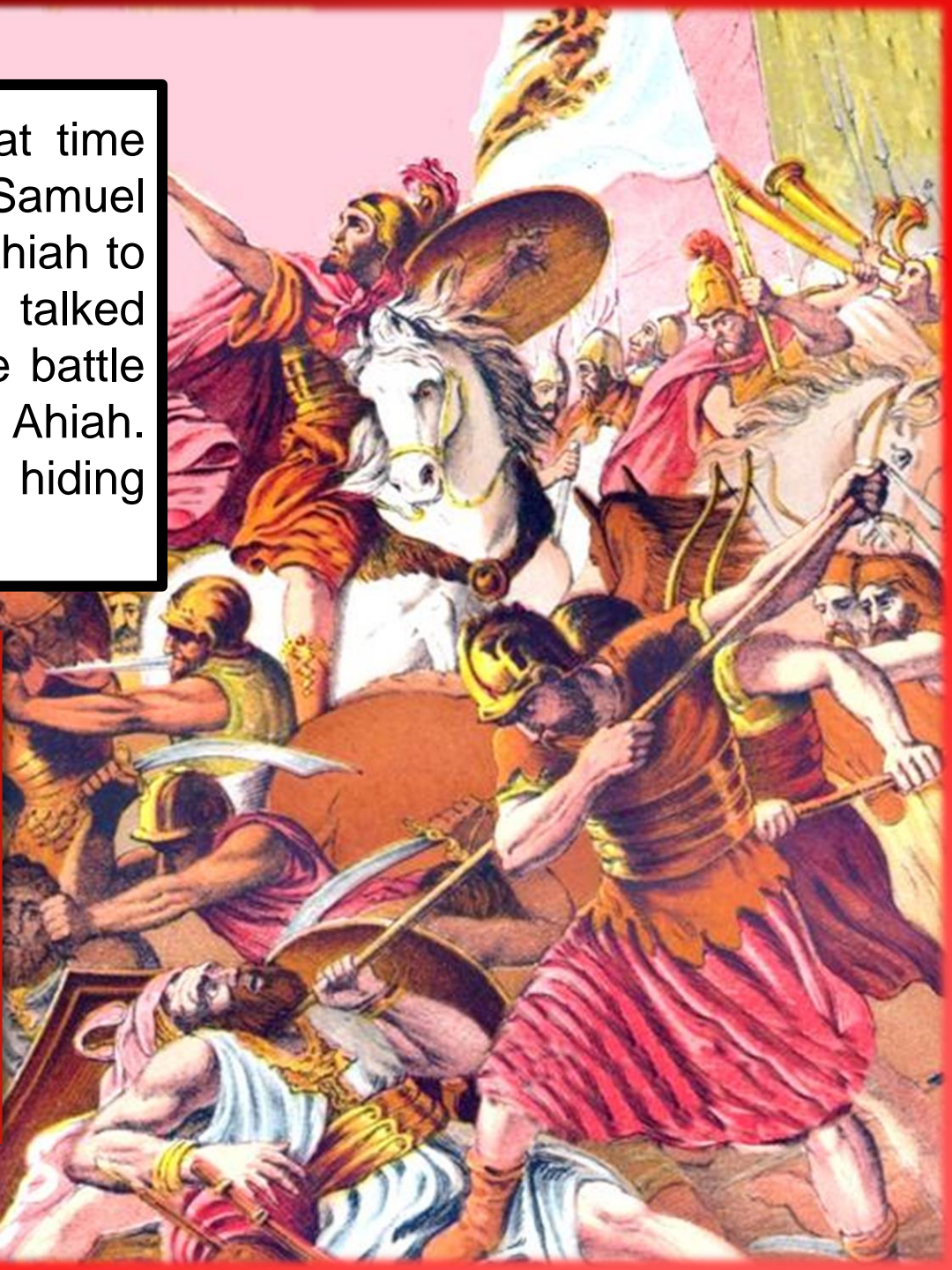


God caused an earthquake and the Philistines fled afraid, “beating down one another” or running over one another. When Saul’s watchmen told him that the Philistines fled, he had them count his men and discovered that Jonathan and his armor bearer were not there.

“The ark of God was at that time with the children of Israel” (I Samuel 14:18), and Saul called for Ahiah to bring it forward but while he talked to the priest the noise of the battle increased, and he stopped Ahiah. The Hebrews that had been hiding were joining the fight.

1 Samuel 14

“²⁰And Saul and all the people that were with him assembled themselves, and they came to the battle: and, behold, every man’s sword was against his fellow, and there was a very great discomfiture.”





Saul had made a foolish decree before the battle began. He had said, "Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies." So none dared to eat all day, and they were very hungry because of the war.

Jonathan did not know about his father's decree and ate some honey he found in the woods.

After he ate it he discovered his error.

He rejected his father's decree as troublesome and said all the Hebrews should eat so they would have strength to continue fighting!





1 Samuel 14

“³²And the people flew upon the spoil, and took sheep, and oxen, and calves, and slew them on the ground: and the people did eat them with the blood.”

It was a sin for Hebrews
to eat blood.



Saul immediately offered sacrifices for the people's sin.



Saul gained courage from Israel's success and proposed they continue the battle all night, but his priest Ahiah suggested they consult with God first. When they asked God's counsel, HE DID NOT ANSWER.





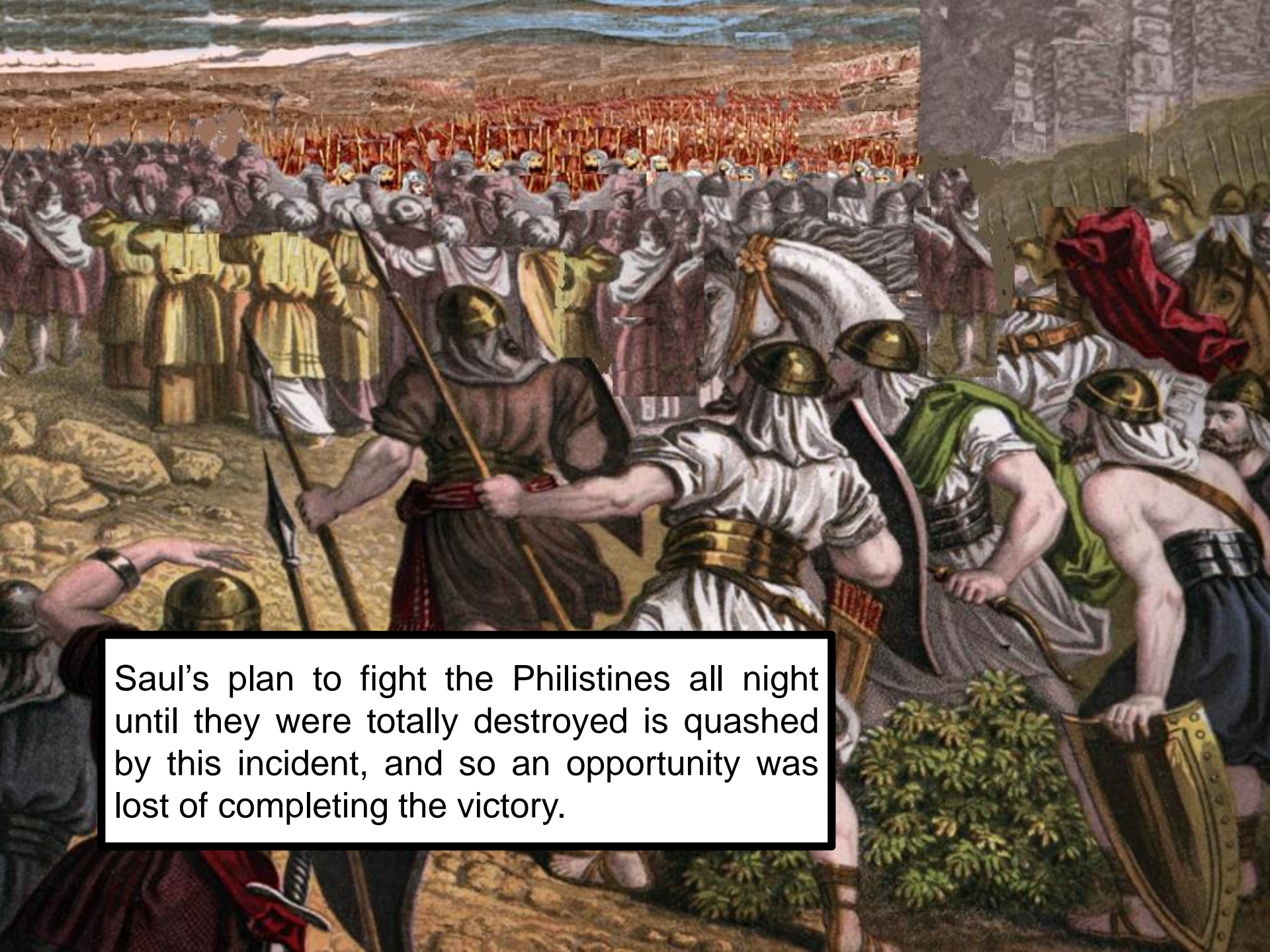
Saul discovered that Jonathan had eaten the honey. Jonathan confessed, "I did but taste a little honey with the end of the rod that was in mine hand, and, lo, I must die!"

Jonathan was not rebellious in eating the honey;
he was not worthy to die.



1 Samuel 14

“⁴⁵And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall **not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day.** So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.”

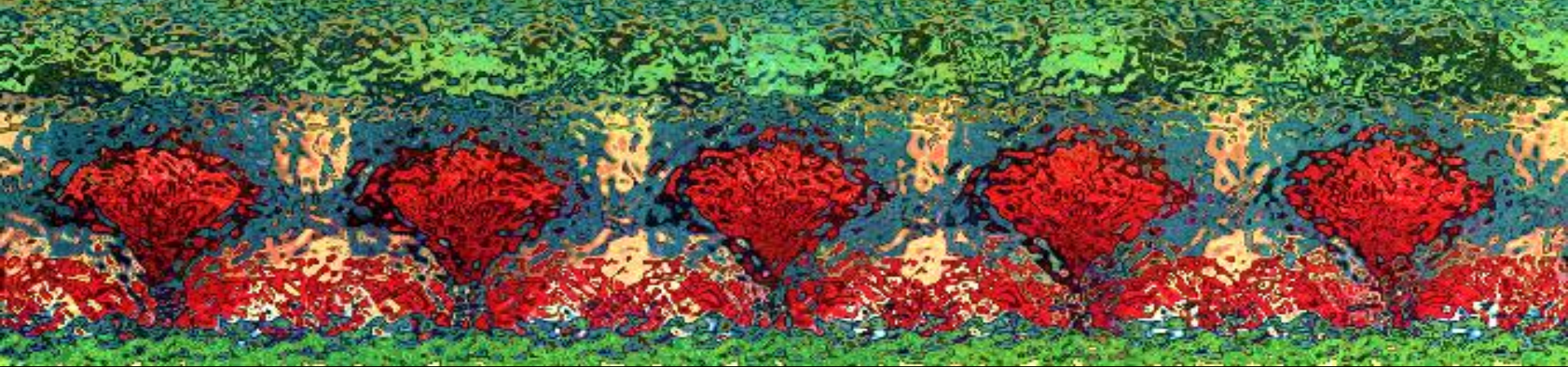


Saul's plan to fight the Philistines all night until they were totally destroyed is quashed by this incident, and so an opportunity was lost of completing the victory.



1 Samuel 14

“⁴⁶Then Saul went up from following the Philistines: and the Philistines went to their own place.”



THE END

