

# 'The Rise of the Kings Series'

## Sermons in the Book of 1 Samuel



### Message 20 - 'A God - Given Victory' 1 Samuel 14:1 - 23

The situation was desperate, and as we looked at chapter 14, the Lord grants a flash of glorious victory, and God-given deliverance, that should inspire the hearts of the Israelites. Certainly, it is the case that throughout the history of the church, when it seems as though the church is under great oppression, and faces an enemy of great force, God intervenes and grants a marvellous moment of deliverance, for as Christ said, He will build His church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. We have in this chapter, a tale of daring, all-out faith, and the movement of the hand of a mighty God that brings the enemy to its knees. We can see the following:

**Narrative** - Jonathan, Saul's son, decides to go with his armour-bearer to go and confront the Philistine garrison posted nearby at Michmash. Whilst Jonathan is moving over to take action we see the Israelite King Saul, resting (tarrying) under a pomegranate tree. Jonathan and his armour-bearer are faced with a physical task so tiring and then have to face a garrison of Philistines. They have to manoeuvre across a ravine, a place where two steep cliffs form a valley, they are on one side and the Philistines on the other. Verse 6 shows the faith of Jonathan and his willingness to fight for the Lord and His glory. He says to his armour-bearer, "Come and let us go...it may be that the Lord will work for us." He is not presumptuous enough to demand the Lord do as he wishes but rather that he is willing to risk all for the Lord because it may be that the Lord will work for them and then great things will happen. The armour-bearer shows great faith as knowing his master he is willing to follow and aid him in his task without question because he sees his master's faith. Jonathan is not completely uncalculated and random, he seeks God's seal on his plan. They face the Philistines knowing that the Lord has delivered them into their hands, and they win a great victory. It is the Lord's victory, and he intervenes on their behalf, by sending a great trembling, and causing confusion in the camp. Saul eventually goes to assist his son, and Jonathan's daring inspires the Israelites in hiding to be bold for that moment, and Israel take much land.

**The Real Need for Recklessness** - The task that lay in front of Jonathan and his armour-bearer was one that only a fit younger man could take on. To go through the rigours of descending (Bozez) and scaling (Senh) the ravine and then face a garrison of Philistines needed the physical strength and agility of a younger person. Also Jonathan still had the youthful zeal and recklessness, whereas an older man may have counted the cost too much and missed the opportunity. This young man's task lay in front of the young people here today as well and that is to RISK ALL FOR JESUS CHRIST AND DO IT NOW! You'll never have this time and energy again, whilst you can be reckless for Jesus Christ! Dare to do where others fear to contemplate, it may be that the Lord will work for you. Many will tell you that the task is impossible and therefore not worth the effort. Live Jesus Christ, breathe Him, speak Him, love Him do all and do it now.

**The Real Danger of Regression** - For all those that are slightly older, middle age to older age, yours is the danger of taking it easy, cruising into glory. Saul made the fatal error of losing his focus, it cost him his kingdom and closeness to the Lord. We see in the narrative that at the beginning Saul is taking it easy, relaxing in the shade of a pomegranate tree. He is physically more tired and hides behind the projection of responsibility, so many reasons to relax. Saul also made the mistake of surrounding himself with the wrong people, (Vs 2,3), a rejected line of priesthood who would guide him to all the wrong things.

**The Reality of God's Reviving Power** - We have great cause to rejoice tonight, we are the sons and daughters of a great God who can do great things! Do you believe it? I mean really believe it, that God can still work, then that should excite us and motivate us to see His glory. Jonathan has faith in a God whose power has no restraint, he has confidence in the Lord and he trusts in Him. Our God is the same and if we know Christ, we have a personal relationship with a Saviour who has no limit to the wonders he can perform.



## Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs