

13[1] Saul was a son of a year in his reign, and his second year reigning over Israel, [2] so Saul chose for himself three thousand from Israel. And two thousand were with Saul in Michmas¹ and in mountain of House of God, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Hill of Benjamin. And the rest of the people he sent each to his tent.

[3] And Jonathan struck a garrison of Philistines that was in Geba, and Philistines heard. And Saul blew in the horn in all the land, saying, “Let the Hebrews hear.” [4] And all Israel heard, saying, “Saul has struck a garrison of Philistines, and also Israel has become a stench² among Philistines.” And the people were called together after Saul at the Gilgal.

[5] And Philistines were gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as sand that is upon the seashore for multitude. And they went up and camped in Michmas, east of House of Iniquity. [6] And men of Israel saw that it was dire³ to them, for the people were distressed. And they hid themselves in the caves and in the thickets and in the rocks and in the strongholds⁴ and in the pits. [7] And Hebrews crossed over to land of Gad and Gilead, and Saul was yet in the Gilgal; and all the people trembled after him.

[8] And he waited seven days according to the appointed time, that by Samuel. And Samuel did not come to the Gilgal, and the people were scattered from him. [9] And Saul said, “Bring to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings.” And he offered up the burnt offering. [10] And it was, as he finished offering the burnt offering, so behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him to bless him. [11] And Samuel said, “What have you done?” And Saul said, “Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and you had not come according to the appointed time of the days; and Philistines were gathering at Michmas. [12] And I said, 'Now, Philistines will come down to me at the Gligal, and the face of Yehvah I did not entreat.' So, I forced myself, and I offered the burnt offering.”

[13] And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You did not keep Yehvah your Gods' commandment that he commanded you.⁵ For now Yehvah would have established your kingdom to Israel forever. [14] And now, your kingdom shall not arise.⁶ Yehvah has sought for himself a man as his heart. And Yehvah has commanded him for a leader over his people, because you did not keep what Yehvah commanded you.”

[15] And Samuel arose, and went up from the Gilgal to the Hill of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people, those found with him, about six hundred men. [16] And Saul and Jonathan his son and the people found with them were dwelling in

1 ; מִכְמָשׁ (mikhmâs) “Michmas” TLV; “Michmash” NKJV, etc.; Μαχεμας (Machemas) LXX - the “sh” in “Michmash” does not match either the Hebrew or Greek spelling. There is no “sh” in Greek – found also in 1 Samuel 13:5, 11, 16, 23; 14:5, 31; Ezra 2:27 מִכְמָשׁ (mikhmâs); Nehemiah 7:31 מִכְמָשׁ (mikhmâs); 11:31; Isaiah 10:28

2 נִבְאֵשׁ (niv'ash) “stench” CJB, EHV, ESV, JUB, LEB, TLV; “stink” Green; “abhorred” YLT; “abomination” NKJV, KJV; “odious” (= “extremely unpleasant; repulsive” [Oxford]) NAS – see footnote for Genesis 34:30.

3 צָרָלוּ (tsar-lo) “dire to them” (more lit., “dire to him”); NKJV “they were in danger”; YLT “they are distressed”; NAS, KJV “they were in a strait”

4 צְרִיחִים (tserichiyim) “strongholds” - see footnote for Judges 9:46.

5 1 Samuel 10:8.

6 תָּקוּם (tâqum) “arise”; WYC “rise further”; YLT “stand”; NKJV, KJV “continue”; NAS “endure”

Geba⁷ of Benjamin, and Philistines were camped in Michmas. [17] And the destroyer⁸ went out from Philistines camp, three companies, the one company turned to the way of Ophrah to land of Fox.⁹ [18] And the one company turned to the way of House of Horon, and the one company turned to the way of the border that looks down upon the valley of Zeboim¹⁰ toward the wilderness.

[19] And a blacksmith was not found in all Israel's land, for Philistines said, “Lest the Hebrews make a sword or a spear.” [20] And all Israel went down to the Philistines to sharpen each his plowshare, and his coulter,¹¹ and his axe, and his hoe.¹² [21] And the sharpening¹³ was a pim¹⁴ for the plowshares, and for the coulters, and for a three-pronged fork,¹⁵ and for the axes, and to cause the goad to stand.¹⁶ [22] And it was, on battle day, so there was not found a sword or a spear in any hand of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan. And for Saul and Jonathan, his son, she was found.¹⁷ [23] And Philistines' garrison went out to Michmas' pass.

7 גֵּבַע (geva) “Geba” NAS; “Gibeah” YLT, NKJV, KJV – for “Gibeah” see Joshua 15:57 footnote. For “Geba” see footnote in Joshua 18:24.

8 הַמְשָׁחִיט (hamshachiyt) “the destroyer” YLT; “raiders” NKJV; “the spoilers” KJV – same word as “the destroyer” (NKJV) in Exodus 12:23, found also in 2 Samuel 24:16//1 Chronicles 21:15 (angel “who was destroying” NKJV); 2 Kings 23:13 (“destruction” NAS); Jeremiah 51:25 (2x “destroying”; “who destroys”); Ezekiel 9:8 (“destroying” NKJV).

9 שׁוֹעַל (shu`âl) “Fox” - see footnote for Joshua 15:28.

10 צְבֹעִים (tsevo`iyim) “Zeboim” - also found in Nehemiah 11:34. See also footnote for “Zeboim” in Genesis 10:19.

11 אֵתוֹ (êto) “coulter” (“a vertical cutting blade fixed in front of a plowshare” Oxford) YLT, KJV; “mattock” NKJV, NAS – found also in 1 Samuel 13:21; Isaiah 2:4//Micah 4:3; Joel 3:10(H4:10).

12 מַחַרְשֵׁתוֹ (mcharêshâto) “hoe” NAS; “mattock” YLT, KJV; “sickle” NKJV – same word spelled slightly different for “plowshare” מַחַרְשֵׁתוֹ (mcharashto) earlier in the verse.

13 פְּצִירָה (petsiyrah) “sharpening” noun, only here, related to the verb to “press” or “urge” פָּצַר (pâsar) e.g. Genesis 19:3; 33:11; 2 Samuel 13:25.

14 פִּים (piym) “pim” (= “1/4 oz.” Holladay) NKJV; “two-thirds of a shekel” NAS

15 שְׁלֹשׁ קִלְשׁוֹן (shelosh qilleshon) “three-pronged fork” singular noun; YLT “three-pronged rakes”; NKJV, KJV, NAS “forks”; Holladay “trident” - this is “three” שְׁלֹשׁ (shelosh) with an uncertain term only found here, קִלְשׁוֹן (qilleshon).

16 לְהַצִּיב (lehatstiyv) “to cause . . . to stand”; YLT “to set up” the goads; NKJV “to set the points” of the goads; NAS “top fix” the hoes; KJV “to sharpen” the goads.

17 תִּמְצָא (timmâtsê) “she was found” - feminine verb referring to the feminine noun “sword” חֶרֶב (cherev).