

# The beginning of the end for Saul's kingship

## The literary structure of 1 Samuel 13:2-18

**A. Saul numbers his people/the rest of the people:** <sup>13:2</sup>Saul chose three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in **Gibeah** of Benjamin. / The rest of the people he sent home, every man to his tent.

### AA. The Philistines defeated:

- a) **Jonathan's victory:** <sup>3</sup>Jonathan defeated the garrison of the Philistines that was at **Geba**,
- b) **Philistines heard:** and the Philistines heard of it.
- c) **Trumpet:** And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear."

b1) **Israel heard:** <sup>4</sup>And all Israel heard it said that

a1) **Saul's victory:** Saul had defeated the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become a stench to the Philistines.

### B. Saul at Gilgal

- a) **The people/Saul at Gilgal:** And the people were called out to join Saul at Gilgal.
- b) **Philistine response/muster:** <sup>5</sup>And the Philistines mustered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude. They came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth-aven.
- b1) **Israelite response/scatter:** <sup>6</sup>When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble (for the people were hard pressed), the people hid themselves in caves and in holes and in rocks and in tombs and in cisterns, <sup>7</sup>and some Hebrews crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.

a1) **Saul at Gilgal/the people:** Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

**C. Saul's disobedience:** <sup>8</sup>He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. <sup>9</sup>So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering.

### B1. Samuel at Gilgal

- a) **Samuel comes to Gilgal:** <sup>10</sup>As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came.
- b) **Saul's excuse:** And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. <sup>11</sup>Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, <sup>12</sup>I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the LORD.' So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering."

#### b1) God's judgment:

a. **not kept command:** <sup>13</sup>And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you.

b. **kingdom:** For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

b1. **kingdom:** <sup>14</sup>But now your kingdom shall not continue.

a1. **not kept command:** The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

a1) **Samuel leaves Gilgal:** <sup>15</sup>And Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal.

**A1. The rest of the people/Saul numbers his people:** The rest of the people went up after Saul to meet the army; they went up from Gilgal to **Gibeah** of Benjamin. / And Saul numbered the people who were present with him, about six hundred men.

**AA1. Philistines ascendant:** <sup>16</sup>And Saul and Jonathan his son and the people who were present with them stayed in **Geba** of Benjamin, but the Philistines encamped in Michmash. <sup>17</sup>And raiders came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies. One company turned toward Ophrah, to the land of Shual; <sup>18</sup>another company turned toward Beth-horon; and another company turned toward the border that looks down on the Valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.