

## CAP. XIII י"ג

## CHAPTER 13

## CHAPTER 13

[1] Saul was (years) old when he began to reign, and he reigned over Israel two years; [2] and Saul chose for himself three thousand out of Israel; and two thousand were with Saul in Michmash, and in the hill-country of Bethel; and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin; and he sent the rest of the people each to his tent. [3] And Jonathan struck the outpost of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard; and Saul sounded the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear. [4] And all Israel heard, saying, Saul has struck an outpost of the Philistines; and also, Israel has become odious to the Philistines. And the people were called after Saul to Gilgal. [5] And the Philistines gathered to fight with Israel, (with) thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and a people as the sand which (is) on the seashore for multitude; and they came up and pitched in Michmash, east of Bethaven. [6] And the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, for the people were distressed, and the people hid themselves in caves, and in crevices, and in rocks, and in holes, and in pits. [7] And the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead; and Saul (was) still in Gilgal; and all the people followed him trembling.

[8] And he waited seven days, according to the appointed time with Samuel, but Samuel had not come to Gilgal; and the

בְּדִשְׁנָה שָׁאוּל בְּמַלְכוֹ וּשְׁתֵּי שָׁנִים מָלַךְ עַל־יִשְׂרָאֵל׃  
 .Israel over he years and he when (was) a A  
 reigned two king became Saul year of son  
 וַיִּבְחַר־לוֹ שָׁאוּל שְׁלֹשָׁת אֲלָפִים מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהִי עִם־  
 with and from thousand three Saul for Now  
 were ,Israel (men) himself chose  
 שָׁאוּל אֲלָפִים בְּמִכְמָשׁ וּבְהַר בֵּית־אֵל וְאַלְפָּה הָיוּ עִם־  
 with were a and ,Bethel in and in in two Saul  
 thousand of hills the ,Michmash thousand  
 יוֹנָתָן בְּנֹבֶעַת בְּנִימִן וַיִּתֵּר הָעָם שִׁלַּח אִישׁ לְאֹהֲלָיו׃  
 his to each sent he the the But .Benjamin in Jonathan  
 .tents man people of rest of Gibeah  
 וַיִּדְּ וַיִּנָּתֵן אֶת נְצִיב פְּלִשְׁתִּים אֲשֶׁר בְּגֵבָה וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ פְּלִשְׁתִּים׃  
 the and ,Geba in that the fort the Jonathan And  
 .Philistines heard (was) Philistines of struck  
 וּשָׁאוּל תָּקַע בְּשׁוֹפָר בְּכָל־הָאָרֶץ לֵאמֹר יִשְׁמְעוּ הָעִבְרִים׃  
 the May hear ,saying the in the with blew And  
 .Hebrews hear ,land all horn ram's Saul  
 וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל שָׁמְעוּ לֵאמֹר הִבֵּה שָׁאוּל אֶת־נְצִיב פְּלִשְׁתִּים׃  
 the the Saul struck ,saying heard Israel And  
 ,Philistines of fort all  
 וַיִּסְבְּאוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּפְלִשְׁתִּים וַיִּצְעֲקוּ הָעָם אַחֲרֵי שָׁאוּל׃  
 Saul after the were Then the with Israel become had and  
 people called .Philistines odious also  
 הַגִּלְגָּל׃ וּפְלִשְׁתִּים נֶאֱסְפוּ לְהִלָּחֵם עִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁלֹשִׁים  
 thirty Israel with fight to gathered the And (to)  
 Philistines ,Gilgal  
 אֲלָפָה רֶכֶב וְשֵׁשֶׁת אֲלָפִים פָּרָשִׁים וְעַם כַּחֹל אֲשֶׁר עַל־  
 on that the as and ,horsemen thousand six and ,chariots thou-  
 (is) sand people sand  
 שַׁפְתֵּיהֶם לָרֶב וַיַּעֲלוּ וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּמִכְמָשׁ קְדָמַת בֵּית אֲבֵן׃  
 .aven Beth- of east ,Michmash in and they and for the the  
 camped came ;multitude sea of shore  
 וְאִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל רָאוּ כִּי צָרָלוּ כִּי נִגְשׂ הָעָם וַיִּתְחַבְּאוּ׃  
 hid and the were for to narrow that saw Israel the And  
 themselves ;people pressed ,them (was it) of men  
 הָעָם בְּמַעְרוֹת וּבְחַוְיוֹת וּבְסַלְעִים וּבְצִרְחוֹת וּבְכַרְוֹת׃  
 in and in and in and in and in the  
 .cisterns ,tombs ,craggs ,crevices ,caves people  
 וַעֲבָרִים עָבְרוּ אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן אֶרֶץ גָּד וַיִּגְלַעַד וּשָׁאוּל עִידְנֹו׃  
 (was) he But and Gad the (to) the crossed the And  
 still ,Saul ,Gilead of land Jordan Hebrews  
 בַּגִּלְגָּל וְכָל־הָעָם חָרְדוּ אַחֲרָיו׃ וַיַּיְחַל ׀ שִׁבְעַת יָמִים׃  
 days seven he Now following trembled the and in  
 waited .him people all ,Gilgal  
 לְמוֹעֵד אֲשֶׁר שָׁמְעָא וְלֹא־בָא שָׁמְעָא לְהַגִּלְגָּל וַיִּפֶּץ הָעָם׃  
 the and ;Gilgal (to) Samuel did but Samuel that the to  
 people scattered come not (not) time set

10 mander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines; and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them. Then they cried to the LORD and said, 'We have sinned because we have forsaken the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtarts. But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.'

11 So the LORD sent Jerubbaal, and Beraak, and Jephthah, and Samson, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies round about you so that you dwelt in safety. And you saw that Nahash, king of the Ammonites, came against you. Accordingly you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' although the LORD your God was your king.

13 "Now therefore see the king whom you have chosen and whom you have requested; for the LORD has now set a king over you. If you will fear the LORD and serve him and listen to his voice, and not rebel against the command of the LORD, and both you and the king who reigns over you follow the LORD your God, it is well. But if you will not listen to the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the command of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you and your king to destroy you. Now therefore take your stand and see this great thing which the LORD is about to do before your eyes. Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the LORD to send thunder and rain; and you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD in asking for yourselves a king."

18 So Samuel called upon the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people were greatly afraid of the LORD and Samuel.

19 Then all the people said to Samuel, "Intercede with the LORD your God in behalf of your servants that we die not; for we have added to all our sins the wickedness of asking for ourselves a king."

20 But Samuel said to the people, "Fear not; you have indeed done all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; and do not turn aside after vain things which cannot profit or deliver; for they are vain. For

will not cast away his people; for the LORD has undertaken to make you a people for himself. Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to intercede on your behalf; but I will instruct you in the good and the right way. Only fear the LORD and serve him in a truth with all your heart, for see what a great thing he has done in your presence. But if you persist in wrongdoing, both you and your king shall be swept away."

*An American Translation*  
**THE REJECTION OF KING SAUL, 13:1-18**

Saul was . . . . . years old when he began to reign; and he reigned . . . . . years over Israel. Now Saul chose for himself three thousand men of Israel: two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and on the mountain of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan his son in Gibeah of Benjamin. But the rest of the people he had sent away, each to his home. Now Jonathan overcame the garrison of the Philistines that was in Gibeah. Thus the Philistines heard the report: the Hebrews have revolted. But Saul had meantime sent the trumpet call throughout all the land; and all Israel heard the report that Saul had smitten the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel was now in bad odor with the Philistines. Accordingly the people were summoned after Saul to Gilgal. Likewise the Philistines were gathered together to fight with Israel, three thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as numerous as the sand which is on the seashore; and they came up, and encamped in Michmash, on the east side of Bethaven. When the men of Israel saw that they were in jeopardy (for the people were at their wits' end), the people hid themselves in caves, in thickets, in rocky crags, in caverns, and in pits. They also crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead; but Saul was still in Gilgal, and all the people were on the point of desertion. Thus he waited seven days according to the appointed time which Samuel had said; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the peo-

fore Saul said, "Bring here to me the burnt-offering and the thank-offerings." So he offered the burnt-offering. Then just as he finished offering the burnt-offering, Samuel came; and Saul went out to welcome him. But Samuel said, "What have you done?" Then Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattering from me and you did not come within the appointed time, and the Philistines were gathering at Michmash, I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I shall not have appeared the LORD.' So I forced myself and offered the burnt-offering."

13 Then Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly, in that you have not kept the command of the LORD your God, which he commanded you; for now would the LORD have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has appointed him a leader over his people, because you have not kept that which the LORD commanded you."

15 Then Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal and proceeded on his way; and the rest of the people went up after Saul to meet the men of war, and they went from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. Saul also numbered the people that were left with him, about six hundred men. Thus Saul and Jonathan his son, together with the people that remained with them, were staying in Gibeah of Benjamin, while the Philistines encamped in Michmash. Meanwhile raiders went out of the camp of the Philistines in three detachments, one detachment turning in the direction of Ophrah in the land of Shual, and another detachment turning in the direction of Beth-horon, and another detachment turning in the direction of the hill that looks down over the valley of Zeboim toward the desert.

**WAR WITH THE PHILISTINES, 13:19-14:52**

19 Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said,

But all the Israelites to the Philistines to plowpoint and his and his mattock; a plowpoints and the and a third of a shaft for setting the goad the day of Michmash spear was found in the people who Jonathan; but Saul son had them.

Now an outpost was advanced to mash.

Thus it happened than, the son of Saul who bore his armor "Come, let us of the Philistines, side yonder."

But he did not Saul was tarrying Gibeah, under which is by the th people who were six hundred men; of Abihub, Ichab of Phinehas, and of the LORD at S, an ephod. The know that Jonathan between the pass sought to go over there was a sharp and a sharp crag the name of the name of the other was on the north and the other on Geba. Then Jonathan young man who "Come, let us these uncircum chance the LORD half, for with limitation to do few."

Accordingly to him, "Do whatever mines; see, I a cination is mine. Then Jonathan "See, we are men and show they say to u

ward's address  
 men of Israel continue to a great degree.  
 ally Samuel said to all  
 Here I have listened  
 your voice as respects  
 you have said to me,  
 could cause a king to  
 I you.<sup>a</sup> 2 And now  
 king walking before  
 for me. I have grown  
 gray,<sup>b</sup> and my sons,  
 are with you,<sup>c</sup> and  
 walked before you  
 youth until this day.<sup>d</sup>  
 an answer against me  
 Jehovah and in front  
 of me. Whose bull  
 do you have I defrauded  
 or whose ass have I  
 whom have I defrauded  
 or whose hand have I  
 accepted? Money that I  
 should have with it?<sup>e</sup> And I  
 restoration to you  
 I To this they said:  
 not defrauded us,  
 you crushed us, nor  
 accepted anything at  
 the hand of a single  
 man.  
 So he said to them:  
 is a witness against  
 his anointed one?<sup>f</sup>  
 this day that you  
 did nothing at all in my  
 To this they said: "He  
 cess."<sup>g</sup>

them to dwell in this place.<sup>a</sup>  
 9 And they went forgetting Je-  
 hovah their God,<sup>b</sup> so that he  
 sold them into the hand of  
 Sisera<sup>c</sup> the chief of the army  
 of Hazor and into the hand of  
 the Philistines<sup>d</sup> and into the  
 hand of the king of Moab,<sup>e</sup>  
 and they kept fighting against  
 them. 10 And they began to  
 call to Jehovah for aid<sup>f</sup> and  
 say, "We have sinned,<sup>g</sup> for we  
 have left Jehovah that we might  
 serve the Baals<sup>h</sup> and the Ash-  
 to-reth images<sup>i</sup>; and now deliver  
 us out of the hand of our ene-  
 mies, that we may serve you.  
 11 And Jehovah proceeded to  
 send Jerubbabai<sup>j</sup> and Bedan  
 and Jephthah<sup>k</sup> and Samuel<sup>l</sup>  
 and deliver you out of the hand  
 of your enemies all around,  
 that you might dwell in secu-  
 rity.<sup>m</sup> 12 When you saw that  
 Nabal<sup>n</sup> the king of the sons  
 of Ammon had come against  
 you, you kept saying to me,  
 "No, but a king is what should  
 reign over us!"<sup>o</sup> all the while  
 Jehovah your God being your  
 King.<sup>p</sup> 13 And now here is the  
 king whom you have chosen,  
 for whom you asked,<sup>q</sup> and here  
 Jehovah has put over you a  
 king.<sup>r</sup> 14 If you will fear Je-  
 hovah<sup>s</sup> and actually serve him<sup>t</sup>  
 and obey his voice,<sup>u</sup> and you  
 will not rebel against the or-  
 der of Jehovah, both you and  
 the king who must reign over  
 you will certainly prove to be  
 followers of Jehovah your God.  
 15 But if you will not obey the  
 voice of Jehovah<sup>v</sup> and you will  
 actually rebel against the order  
 of Jehovah,<sup>w</sup> the hand of Jeho-  
 vah will certainly prove to be  
 against you and your fathers.<sup>x</sup>  
 16 Now, also, take your stand  
 and see this great thing that  
 Jehovah is doing before your  
 eyes. 17 Is it not wheat har-  
 vest<sup>y</sup> today? I shall call to Je-  
 hovah that he may give thun-  
 ders and rain,<sup>z</sup> then know and  
 see that your evil is abundant<sup>aa</sup>  
 that you have done in the eyes

- CHAP. 12
- a Jos 1:2
- b Jos 24:23
- c Ps 44:3
- d Ps 22:18
- e Ps 106:39
- f De 32:30
- g Jer 24:14
- h Jer 4:2
- i Jer 10:7
- j Jer 19:1
- k Jer 3:12
- l Jer 2:18
- m Jer 3:9
- n Jer 6:10
- o Jer 3:7
- p Jer 2:15
- q Jer 10:15
- r Jer 6:32
- s Jer 11:1
- t Heb 11:32
- u Le 26:6
- v Ps 4:8
- w Isa 11:1
- x Isa 8:5
- y Isa 8:19
- z Jer 8:23
- aa Jer 8:23
- 1Sa 8:7
- Ps 74:12
- Isa 33:22
- 1Sa 8:5
- 1Sa 9:16
- 1Sa 10:24
- Ho 13:11
- De 17:19
- v De 6:13
- w Jos 24:14
- x De 13:4
- y De 28:2
- z Nu 14:9
- aa Jos 22:29
- ab Le 26:14
- ac Jos 24:20
- ad Nu 33:56
- ae De 28:45
- af Pr 28:1
- ag 1Sa 7:9
- ah 1Sa 5:16
- ai Jos 5:17
- aj Ho 13:11

of Jehovah in asking for your-  
 selves a king."<sup>ab</sup>  
 18 Upon that Samuel called  
 to Jehovah,<sup>ac</sup> and Jehovah pro-  
 ceeded to give thunders and  
 rain on that day,<sup>ad</sup> so that all the  
 people were greatly in fear of Je-  
 hovah and of Samuel. 19 And  
 all the people began to say to  
 Samuel: "Pray in behalf of your  
 servants to Jehovah your God,  
 as we do not want to die; be-  
 cause we have added to all our  
 sins an evil in asking for our-  
 selves a king."<sup>ae</sup>

20 So Samuel said to the  
 people: "Do not be afraid.<sup>af</sup> You  
 —you have done all this evil.  
 Only do not turn aside from fol-  
 lowing Jehovah,<sup>ag</sup> and you must  
 serve Jehovah with all your  
 heart.<sup>ah</sup> 21 And you must not  
 turn aside to follow the un-  
 realities that are of no bene-  
 fit<sup>ai</sup> and that do not deliver,  
 because they are unrealities.  
 22 For Jehovah will not desert<sup>aj</sup>  
 his people for the sake of his  
 great name,<sup>ak</sup> because Jehovah  
 has taken it upon himself to  
 make you his people.<sup>al</sup> 23 As  
 for me also, it is unthinkable,  
 on my part, to sin against Je-  
 hovah by ceasing to pray in  
 your behalf,<sup>am</sup> and I must in-  
 struct<sup>an</sup> you in the good<sup>ao</sup> and  
 right way. 24 Only fear<sup>ap</sup> Je-  
 hovah, and you must serve him  
 in truth with all your heart,<sup>aq</sup>  
 for see what great things he has  
 done for you.<sup>ar</sup> 25 But if you  
 flagrantly do what is bad, you  
 will be swept away,<sup>as</sup> both you  
 and your king."<sup>at</sup>

- Second Col.
- a 1Ki 18:37
- b 1Ki 18:1
- c 1Sa 7:5
- d 1Sa 12:23
- e Pr 15:8
- f Ac 8:24
- g Jos 5:16
- h De 20:20
- i De 11:16
- j De 31:29
- k Jos 23:6
- l 1Sa 12:15
- m De 6:5
- n Mt 22:37
- o Jer 2:5
- p Jer 2:11
- q Co 8:4
- r Ps 115:5
- s Jer 10:15
- t Jer 16:19
- u Hab 2:18
- v 1Ki 6:13
- w Ps 94:14
- x Ro 11:1
- y Jos 7:9; Ps 23:3; Ps 106:8; Jer 14:21; Eze 20:14;
- z Ex 19:5; De 7:7; De 14:2; De 32:9; Isa 43:21;
- aa Ro 1:9; Col 1:9; 2Th 1:3; m Ps 34:11; Pr 4:11;
- ab 1Ki 8:36; 2Ch 6:27; o 1Sa 12:14; Ps 111:10; Ec
- ac 12:13; p De 10:12; q De 10:21; r Jos 24:20; s De
- ad 28:36; CHAP. 13 1Ac 13:21.

**13** Saul was [?] years old  
 when he began to reign,<sup>a</sup>  
 and for two years he reigned  
 over Israel. 2 And Saul pro-  
 ceeded to choose for himself  
 three thousand men out of Is-  
 rael; and two thousand came to

New World  
 Translation



saw that King Nahash of Ammon was about to attack you, you rejected the LORD as your king and said to me, 'We want a king to rule us.'

<sup>13</sup> "Now here is the king you chose; you asked for him, and now the LORD has given him to you. <sup>14</sup> All will go well with you if you honor the LORD your God, serve him, listen to him, and obey his commands, and if you and your king follow him. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not listen to the LORD but disobey his commands, he will be against you and your king.<sup>c</sup> <sup>16</sup> So then, stand where you are, and you will see the great thing which the LORD is going to do. <sup>17</sup> It's the dry season, isn't it? But I will pray, and the LORD will send thunder and rain. When this happens, you will realize that you committed a great sin against the LORD when you asked him for a king."

<sup>18</sup> So Samuel prayed, and on that same day the LORD sent thunder and rain. Then all the people became afraid of the LORD and of Samuel, <sup>19</sup> and they said to Samuel, "Please, sir, pray to the LORD your God for us, so that we won't die. We now realize that, besides all our other sins, we have sinned by asking for a king."

<sup>20</sup> "Don't be afraid," Samuel answered. "Even though you have done such an evil thing, do not turn away from the LORD, but serve him with all your heart. <sup>21</sup> Don't go after<sup>d</sup> false gods; they cannot help you or save you, for they are not real. <sup>22</sup> The LORD has made a solemn promise, and he will not abandon you, for he has decided to make you his own people. <sup>23</sup> As for me, the LORD forbid that I should sin against him by no longer praying for you. Instead, I will teach you what is good and right for you to do. <sup>24</sup> Obey the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. Remember the great things he

has done for you. <sup>25</sup> But if you continue to sin, you and your king will be destroyed."

### War against the Philistines

**13**<sup>e</sup> <sup>2</sup> Saul picked three thousand men, keeping two thousand of them with him in Michmash and in the hill country of Bethel and sending one thousand with his son Jonathan to Gibeah, in the territory of the tribe of Benjamin. The rest of the men Saul sent home.

<sup>3</sup> Jonathan killed the Philistine commander<sup>f</sup> in Geba, and all the Philistines heard about it. Then Saul sent messengers to call the Hebrews to war by blowing a trumpet throughout the whole country. <sup>4</sup> All the Israelites were told that Saul had killed the Philistine commander and that the Philistines hated them. So the people answered the call to join Saul at Gilgal.

<sup>5</sup> The Philistines assembled to fight the Israelites; they had thirty thousand war chariots, six thousand horsemen, and as many soldiers as there are grains of sand on the seashore. They went to Michmash, east of Bethaven, and camped there. <sup>6</sup> Then they launched a strong attack against the Israelites, putting them in a desperate situation. Some of the Israelites hid in caves and holes or among the rocks or in pits and wells; <sup>7</sup> others crossed the Jordan River into the territories of Gad and Gilead.

Saul was still at Gilgal, and the people with him were trembling with fear. <sup>8</sup> He waited seven days for Samuel, as Samuel had instructed him to do, but Samuel still had not come to Gilgal. The people began to desert Saul, <sup>9</sup> so he said to them, "Bring me the burnt sacrifices and the fellowship sacrifices." He offered a burnt sacrifice, <sup>10</sup> and just as he was finishing, Samuel arrived. Saul went out to meet him and wel-

come him, <sup>11</sup> but Samuel said, "What have you done?"

Saul answered, "The LORD has deserted me, and you have deserted me when you said you would be with me. That is why I have done that, the Philistines are attacking me at Michmash. <sup>12</sup> So I have done what the Philistines are going to do. I have not done it in Gilgal, and I have not done it in the LORD's favor. So I have done what you offer a sacrifice."

<sup>13</sup> "That was a foolish thing," Samuel answered. "The LORD has not deserted you. You have disobeyed the command of the LORD. The LORD gave you. If you had obeyed, you would have let your descendants rule over you. <sup>14</sup> But now your rule will end. Because you have not obeyed the LORD, he will do what he wants and make his people a mockery."

<sup>15</sup> Samuel left Gilgal and went on his way. The rest of the Philistines followed Saul as he went to Gibeah. They went from Gibeah in the territory of Benjamin. Saul inspected his troops and found about a hundred men. <sup>16</sup> Saul, Jonathan, and their men camped at Bethaven in the territory of Benjamin. The Philistine camp was at Bethshimon. <sup>17</sup> The Philistine soldiers went out in raids from their camps: one group went to Ophrah in the territory of Simeon, <sup>18</sup> another went toward Beeroth, and the other one went toward Beeroth overlooking Zeboiim in the wilderness.

<sup>19</sup> There were no blacksmiths in Israel because the Philistines had forbidden to keep the blacksmiths. The Israelites had to go to the Philistines to get their plows, hoe, and sickles<sup>h</sup> sharpened; <sup>20</sup> they had to give one small coin for sharpening a sickle and for fixing goads, and one coin for sharpening a plow. <sup>21</sup> And so on the day of the battle, the Israelite soldiers ex-

<sup>c</sup> One ancient translation your king; Hebrew your ancestors. <sup>d</sup> Some ancient translations after; Hebrew because after. <sup>e</sup> One ancient translation does not have verse 1; Hebrew has as verse 1 Saul was . . . years old when he became king, and he was king of Israel for two years. The Hebrew text is defective at two points in this verse. <sup>f</sup> Killed the Philistine commander; or defeated the Philistines camping.

13.8 1 S 10.8.

<sup>g</sup> Some ancient translations have these words. <sup>h</sup> One ancient translation charge . . . fixing goads; Hebrew sharpening. Turn.

13.14 Ac 13.22.



therefore, take your stand, and I shall arraign you before the LORD, and shall recount for you all the acts of mercy the LORD has done for you and your fathers.<sup>8</sup> When Jacob and his sons went to Egypt and the Egyptians oppressed them, your fathers appealed to the LORD, who sent Moses and Aaron to bring them out of Egypt, and he gave them this place to live in.<sup>9</sup> But they forgot the LORD their God; and he allowed them to fall into the clutches of Sisera, the captain of the army of Jabin, king of Hazor, into the grasp of the Philistines, and into the grip of the king of Moab, who made war against them.<sup>10</sup> Each time they appealed to the LORD and said, 'We have sinned in forsaking the LORD and worshiping Baals and Ashtaroth; but deliver us now from the power of our enemies, and we will worship you.'<sup>11</sup> Accordingly, the LORD sent Jerubbaal, Barak, Jephthah, and Samson; he delivered you from the power of your enemies on every side, so that you were able to live in security.<sup>12</sup> Yet, when you saw Nahash, king of the Ammonites, advancing against you, you said to me, 'Not so, but a king must rule us,' even though the LORD your God is your king.<sup>13</sup>

**Warnings for People and King.** <sup>13</sup> "Now you have the king you want, a king the LORD has given you."<sup>14</sup> If you fear the LORD and worship him, if you are obedient to him and do not rebel against the LORD's command, if both you and the king who rules you follow the LORD your God—well and good.<sup>15</sup> But if you do not obey the LORD and if you rebel against his command, the LORD will deal severely with you and your king, and destroy you.<sup>16</sup> Now then, stand ready to witness the great marvel the LORD is about to accomplish before your eyes.<sup>17</sup> Are we not in the harvest time for wheat? Yet I shall call

f Gn 46, 5; Ex 1, 11; 2, 23ff.—g Jgs 3, 12ff; 4, 2f; 10, 7; 13, 1.—h 1 Sm 7, 3f.—i Jgs 6, 14, 32; 11, 1.—j 1 Sm 8, 6f. 19; 11, 1f; Jgs 8, 23.—k 1 Sm 8, 7.—l Ex 9, 23, 28ff; 1 Kgs 18, 1.—m Dt 32, 37ff.—n Jer 14, 21; Ex 20, 9; Dn 3, 34.—o Ex 32, 11.—p 1 Sm 14, 1-15; Jgs 3, 27; 6, 34; 2 Sm 20, 1f.

13, 1: A formula like that of 2 Sm 5, 4 was introduced here at some time; but the age of Saul when he became king remains a blank, and the *two years* assigned for his reign in the received text cannot be correct. Tradition (Acts 13, 21) offers the round number, "forty years."

13, 3-4: *The Philistine garrison*: see note on 1 Sm 10, 5. *Let the Hebrews hear*: a different reading of these verses, based on the Greek, would yield: "And the Philistines heard that the Hebrews (*or*: the slaves) had revolted. Saul in the meantime sounded the trumpet throughout all the land (v 4), and all Israel heard that Saul. . . ."

to the LORD, and he will send thunder and rain. Thus you will see and understand how greatly the LORD is displeased that you have asked for a king."<sup>18</sup> Samuel then called to the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day.

**Assistance Promised.** As a result, all the people dreaded the LORD and Samuel.<sup>19</sup> They said to Samuel, "Pray to the LORD your God for us, your servants, that we may not die for having added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king."<sup>20</sup> "Do not fear," Samuel answered them. "It is true you have committed all this evil; still, you must not turn from the LORD, but must worship him with your whole heart."<sup>21</sup> Do not turn to meaningless idols which can neither profit nor save; they are nothing."<sup>22</sup> For the sake of his own great name the LORD will not abandon his people, since the LORD himself chose to make you his people."<sup>23</sup> As for me, far be it from me to sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you and to teach you the good and right way."<sup>24</sup> But you must fear the LORD and worship him faithfully with your whole heart; keep in mind the great things he has done among you.<sup>25</sup> If instead you continue to do evil, both you and your king shall perish."

### III: SAUL AND DAVID

#### CHAPTER 13

NAB

<sup>1</sup>[Saul was . . . years old when he became king and he reigned . . . (two) years over Israel.]\*

**Saul Offers Sacrifice.** <sup>2</sup>Saul chose three thousand men of Israel, of whom two thousand remained with him in Michmash and in the hill country of Bethel, and one thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. He sent the rest of the people back to their tents.<sup>3</sup> Now Jonathan overcame the Philistine garrison\* which was in Gibeah, and the Philistines got word of it. Then Saul sounded the horn throughout the land, with a proclamation, "Let the Hebrews hear!"<sup>4</sup> Thus all Israel learned that Saul had overcome the garrison of the Philistines and that Israel had brought disgrace upon the Philistines; and the soldiers were called up to Saul in Gilgal.<sup>5</sup> The Philistines also assembled for battle, with three thousand chariots, six thousand horsemen, and foot soldiers as numerous as the sands of the seashore. Moving up

LORD sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

19 Then all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, so that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins *this* evil by asking for ourselves a king."

20 And Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have committed all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.

21 "And you must not turn aside, for *then you would go* after futile things which can not profit or deliver, because they are futile.

22 "For the LORD will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the LORD has been pleased to make you a people for Himself.

23 "Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way.

24 "Only <sup>8</sup>fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

25 "But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king shall be swept away."

## CHAPTER 13

**S**AUL was *forty* years old when he began to reign, and he reigned *thirty-two* years over Israel.

2 Now Saul chose for himself 3,000 men of Israel, of which 2,000 were with Saul in Michmash and in the hill country of Bethel, while 1,000 were with Jonathan at Gibeah of Benjamin. But he sent away the rest of the people, each to his tent.

3 And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of *it*. Then Saul blew the trumpet throughout the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear."

4 And all Israel heard the news that Saul had smitten the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become odious to the Philistines. The people were then summoned to Saul at Gilgal.

5 Now the Philistines assembled to fight with Israel, 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen, and people like the sand which is on the seashore in abundance; and they came up and camped in Michmash, east of Beth-aven.

6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait (for the people were hard pressed), then the people hid themselves in caves, in thickets, in cliffs, in cellars, and in pits.

7 Also *some of* the Hebrews crossed the Jordan into the land of Gad and Gilead. But as for Saul, he *was* still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

8 Now he waited seven days, according to the appointed time set by Samuel, but Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattering from him.

9 So Saul said, "Bring to me the burnt

offering and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering.

10 And it came about as soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, that behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him and to greet him.

11 But Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the appointed days, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash,

12 therefore I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not asked the favor of the LORD.' So I forced myself and offered the burnt offering."

13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, for now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

14 "But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

15 Then Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people who were present with him, about six hundred men.

16 Now Saul and his son Jonathan and the people who were present with them were staying in Geba of Benjamin while the Philistines camped at Michmash.

17 And the raiders came from the camp of the Philistines in three companies: one company turned toward Ophrah, to the land of Shual,

18 and another company turned toward Beth-horon, and another company turned toward the border which overlooks the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

19 Now no blacksmith could be found in all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, "Lest the Hebrews make swords or spears."

20 So all Israel went down to the Philistines, each to sharpen his plowshare, his mattock, his axe, and his goad,

21 whenever they had to sharpen the edge of the goads, of the mattocks, of the forks, and of the axes, and to fix the goad points.

22 So it came about on the day of battle that neither sword nor spear was found in the hands of any of the people who *were* with Saul and Jonathan, but they were found with Saul and his son Jonathan.

23 And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.

## CHAPTER 14

**N**OW the day came that Jonathan, the son of Saul, said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come and let us cross over to the Philistines' garrison that is on yonder side." But he did not tell his father.

2 And Saul was staying in the outskirts of Gibeah under the pomegranate tree which

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manding a king for ourselves.”<sup>20</sup> And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; and do not turn aside after useless things that cannot profit or save, for they are useless.”<sup>22</sup> For the LORD will not cast away his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself.<sup>23</sup> Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.<sup>24</sup> Only fear the LORD, and serve him faithfully with all your heart; for consider what great things he has done for you.<sup>25</sup> But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”

**13** Saul was . . . years old when he began to reign; and he reigned . . . and two<sup>d</sup> years over Israel.

**2** Saul chose three thousand out 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 to their tents.<sup>3</sup> Jonathan defeated the garrison of the Philistines that was at Geba; and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, “Let the Hebrews hear!”<sup>4</sup> When all Israel heard that Saul had defeated the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become odious to the Philistines, the people were called out to join Saul at Gilgal.

**5** 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 at Michmash, to the east of Beth-aven.<sup>6</sup> When the Israelites saw that they were in distress (for the troops were hard pressed), the people hid themselves in caves and in holes and in rocks and in tombs and in cisterns.<sup>7</sup> Some Hebrews crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

**8** He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people began to slip away from Saul.<sup>c</sup> **9** So Saul said, “Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the offerings of well-being.” And he offered the burnt offering.<sup>10</sup> As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, Samuel arrived; and Saul went out to meet him and salute him.<sup>11</sup> Samuel said, “What have you done?” Saul replied, “When I saw that the people were slipping away from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines were mustering at Michmash,<sup>12</sup> I said, ‘Now the Philistines will come down upon me at Gilgal, and I have not entreated the favor of the LORD’; so I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering.”<sup>13</sup> Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which he commanded you. The LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever,<sup>14</sup> but now your kingdom will not continue; the

<sup>c</sup> The number is lacking in the Heb text (the verse is lacking in the Septuagint). <sup>d</sup> Two is not the entire number; something has dropped out. <sup>e</sup> Heb *him*

The New  
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Bible

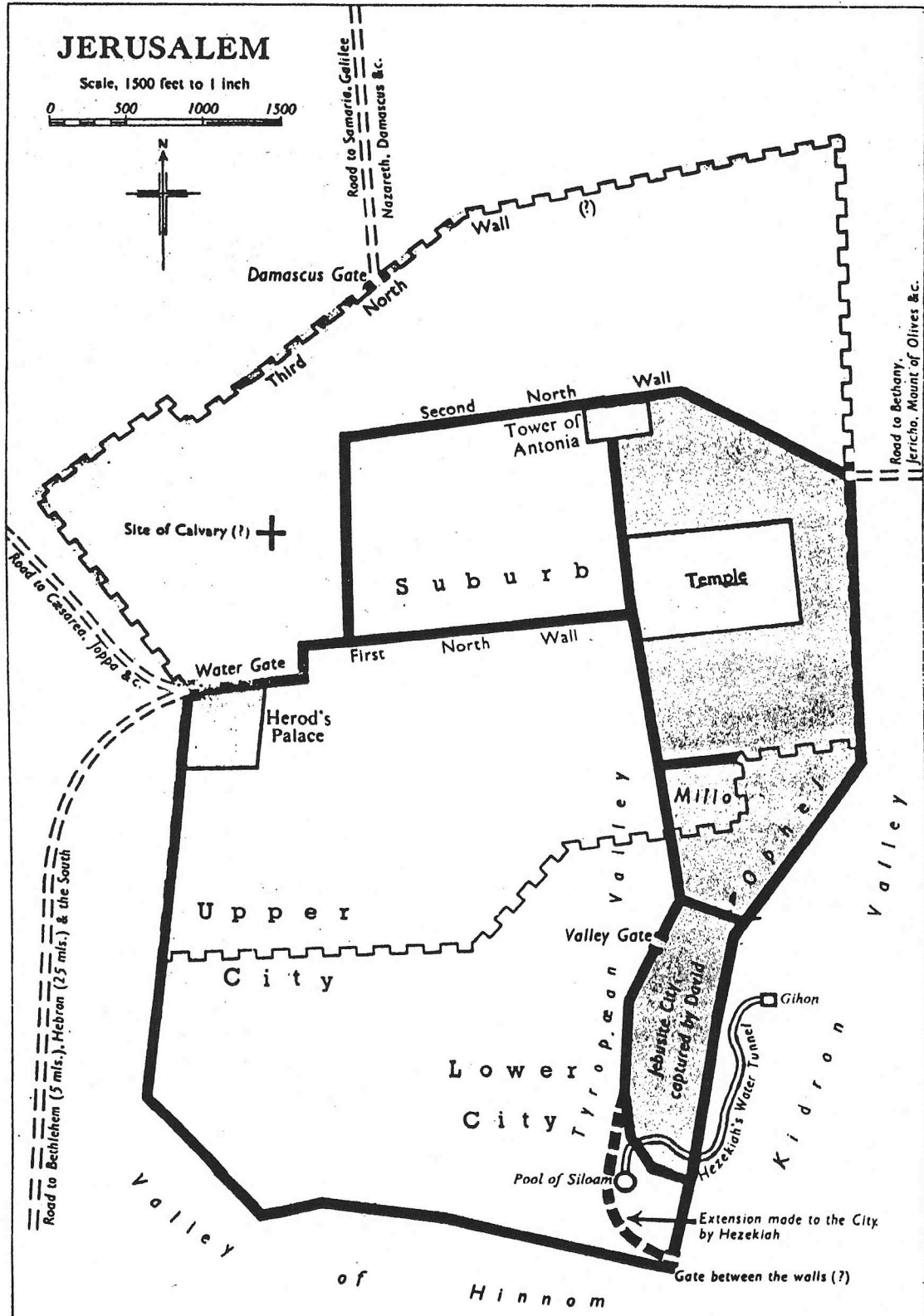
**13.1–7a: Saul begins the war with the Philistines.** Saul’s son Jonathan makes the first move. **1:** Saul’s age at this time is not known. Some suppose that he reigned twelve years; others put the figure at twenty-two (see note *d*). **5:** *Beth-aven*, probably an alternative name for Bethel. **7:** *Crossed the Jordan*, see Judg 12.5. *Gad and Gilead*, east of the Jordan. **13.7b–15a: Saul’s ritual sin and rejection by God.** This passage is more hostile to Saul than ch 15, another explanation of Saul’s





rejection. The thought is that the king had no right to exercise priestly functions, or at least Saul had no such right. Contrast the very different view of 14.31–35, where Saul definitely assists in priestly functions. Later David (2 Sam 6.12–19; 24.25) and Solomon (1 Kings 3.15) also exercised such functions. *The man after his [God’s] own heart* (v. 14) is David. **8:** *The time appointed by Samuel*, see 10.8. No reason for Samuel’s delay is given.



# JERUSALEM

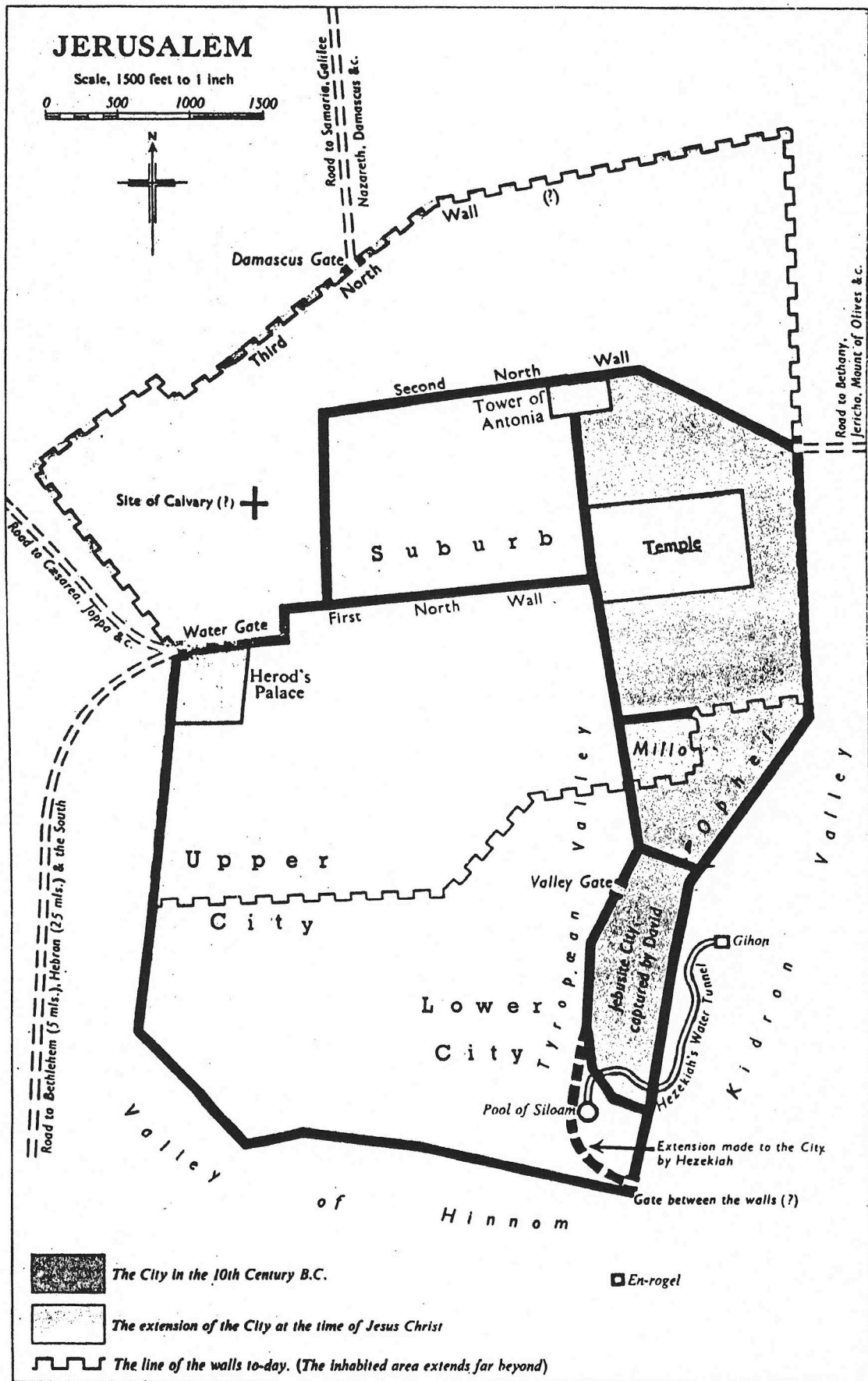
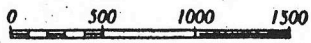
Scale, 1500 feet to 1 inch



-  The City in the 10th Century B.C.
-  The extension of the City at the time of Jesus Christ
-  The line of the walls to-day. (The inhabited area extends far beyond)
-  En-rogel

# JERUSALEM

Scale, 1500 feet to 1 inch





*'Wherever David went, Yahweh gave him victory'*  
 (2 SAMUEL 8:14).  
 During David's reign (c.1010-970 BC), Israel expanded to its greatest extent. His empire included most of the habitable territory between the

Red Sea and the Euphrates. Many areas were subjugated to direct military force: the people of Edom were almost exterminated; its neighbour Moab was bludgeoned into paying tribute, while the Ammonites were

used as forced labour. Farther north in Transjordan lay the kingdom of Geshur, whose alliance with David was sealed by his marriage to its princess. After David's victory over Aram-Zobah, its rival Hamath allied itself