

Chapter 14

Ionathas truſting in God, accompanied with one man, his father not knowing, goeth into the Philifthijms campe; killeth twentie men and trubleth their whole armie. 16. Saul vnderſtanding the fame, approcheth with his armie, and they gette a great victorie. 24. But Saul hauing commanded vnder paine of death, that none ſhould eate til night, Ionathas for taifting a litle honie (though ignorant of the prohibition) is iudged to die. 45. But the people oppoſe themſelues, and deliuer him from death. 47. Saul proſpereth in his kingdom, with his familie.

And it chanced on a certeine day that Ionathas the ſonne of Saul ſayd to the yong man that bare his armour: Come, & let vs paſſe to the garifon of the Philifthijms, which is beyond yonder place. But to his father he told not this fame thing. ² Moreouer Saul abode in the vtmoſt part of Gabaa vnder the pomegranate tree, which was in Magron: and the people with him was about fix hundred men. ³ And Achias the ſonne of Achitob the brother of Ichabod the ſonne of Phinees, which was borne of Heli the prieft of our Lord in Silo, bare the ephod. But the people alſo was ignorant whither Ionathas was gone. ⁴ And there were betwen the afcentes, by the which Ionathas endeoured to paſſe vnto the garifon of the Philiftijms, rockes ſtanding vp on both fides, and as it were in maner of teeth ftiepe broken rockes on either fide, the name of one Boſes, and the name of the other Sene: ⁵ one rocke ſtanding out toward the North ouer againſt Machams, and the other to the South, againſt Gabaa. ⁶ And Ionathas ſayd to the yong man that bare his armour: Come, let vs paſſe to the ſtation of theſe vncircumcifer, if haply our Lord wil make for vs: becauſe it is not hard for our Lord to faue either in manie, or in fewe. ⁷ And his eſquier ſayd to him: Doe al thinges which pleaſe thy minde: goe whither thou deſireſt, and I wil be with thee wherefoeuer thou wilt. ⁸ And Ionathas ſayd: Behold we paſſe to theſe men. And when we ſhal appeare to them, ⁹ If they ſhal ſpeake

to vs in this maner: Tarie til we come to you: let vs stand in our place, and not goe vp to them. ¹⁰ But if they shal say: Come vp to vs: let vs goe vp, because our Lord hath deliuered them into our handes, ^a)this shal be a signe vnto vs. ¹¹ Both of them therefore appeared to the station of the Philistines: & the Philistines sayd: Behold the Hebrewes come out of the caues, wherein they were hid. ¹² And the men of the garrison spake to Ionathas and to his esquier, and sayd: Come vp to vs, and we wil shew you a thing. And Ionathas sayd to his esquier: Let vs goe vp, follow me: for our Lord hath deliuered them into the handes of Israel. ¹³ And Ionathas went vp on his handes & feete creeping, and his esquier after him. Therefore some fell before Ionathas, other some his esquier following flewe. ¹⁴ And the first slaughter, with which Ionathas & his esquier made, was as it were of twentie men in the halfe part of an aker, which a yoke of oxen is wont to plough in a day. ¹⁵ And there was made a miracle in the campe, through the fieldes: yea and al the people of their garrison, which had gone to take prayes, was astroyed, and the land was troubled: and it happened as a miracle from God. ¹⁶ And the watchmen of Saul, which were in Gabaa, of Benjamin looked, & loe a multitude ouerthrowen, & fleeing hither and thither. ¹⁷ And Saul sayd to the people, which was with him: Enquire, and see who is gone from vs. And when they had fought, it was found that Ionathas was not present and his esquier. ¹⁸ And Saul sayd to Achias: Bring the arke of our Lord. (For the arke of God was there that day with the children of Israel.) ¹⁹ And when Saul spake to the priest, there arose a great tumult in the campe of the Philistines: and it grewe by litle and litle, and founded more cleerly. And Saul sayd to the priest: ^b)Draw together thy hand. ²⁰ Saul therefore and al the

^a Ominous speeches are proued by this and some other examples to be sometimes of God, though sometimes this kind of obseruation is superstitious. As before is noted. *Gen. 24.*

^b Pray no more nor expect no longer. So they proceeded to battel without further warrant.

people that was with him, fhouted together, and they came to the place of the fight: and behold euerie mans fword had bene turned to his neighbour, and a flaughter exceding great. ²¹ But the Hebrewes alfo which had bene with the Philiftijms yefterday and the day before, and went vp with them in the campe, returned to be with Ifrael, which were with Saul and Ionathas. ²² Al the Ifraelites alfo which had hid themfelues in mount Ephraim, hearing that the Philiftijms were fled, ioyned them felues with their fellowes in battel. And there were with Saul as it were ten thoufand men. ²³ And our Lord in that day faued Ifrael. And the fight reached as farre as Bethauen. ²⁴ And the men of Ifrael were ioyned among themfelues in that day: and Saul adiured the people, faying: Curfed be the man, that fhall eate bread vntil euening, til I be reuenged of myne enemies. And the whole people did eate no bread: ²⁵ and al the common people of the land came into a foreft, wherein was honie vpon the face of the field. ²⁶ The people therefore entred into the foreft, and there appeared dropping honie, and no man put his hand to his mouth, for the people feared the oath. ²⁷ But Ionathas had not heard when his father adiured the people: and he put forth the tippe of the rod, which he had in his hand, and dipped it into a honie combe: and he turned his hand to his mouth, and his eies were illuminated. ²⁸ And one of the people anfwering, fayd: Thy father hath bound the people with an oath, faying: Curfed be the man that fhall eate bread this day. (And the people was faynt.) ²⁹ And Ionathas fayd: ^aMy father hath trubled the land: your felues haue feene that myn eies are illuminated, becaufe I haue tafted a litle of this honie: ³⁰ how much more if the people had eaten of the praye of their enemies, which they found? had there not bene made a greater plague

^a Ionathas was excufed by ignorance, & by neceffitie; and therefore was iuftly deliuered by the people; and his father offended, in not excepting the cafe of neceffitie, & through more eggre zele of reuēge, then he had warrant from God, whofe anfwer he would not expect. *v. 19.*

in the Philiftijms? ³¹ They ftroke therefore in that day the Philiftijms from Machmas vnto Ailon. And the people was wearied excedingly: ³² and being turned to the praye tooke fheepe, and oxen, and calues, & flew them on the ground: and the people did eate ^a)with bloud. ³³ And they told Saul faying that the people had finned to our Lord, eating with bloud. Who fayd: You haue tranfgreffed: Roule to me euen now a great ftone. ³⁴ And Saul fayd: Difperfe your felues among the common people, and tel them that euerie man bring me his ox and ramme, and kil ye them vpon this fame, and eate, and you shal not finne to our Lord eating with bloud. Al the people therefore brought euerie man his ox in his hand vntil night: and flew them there. ³⁵ And Saul built an altar to our Lord; and then firft did he beginne to build an altar to our Lord. ³⁶ And Saul fayd: Let vs fal vpon the Philiftijms by night, and let vs fpoyle them til it waxe light in the morning, neither let vs leaue a man of them. And the people fayd: Doe al that femeth good in thyne eies. And the prieft fayd: Let vs approach hither to God. ³⁷ And Saul confulted our Lord: Shal I purfew the Philiftijms? wilt thou deliuer them into the handes of Ifrael? And ^b)he answered him not in that day. ³⁸ And Saul fayd: Bring hither al the corners of the people: and know, and fee by whom this finne hath chanced to day. ³⁹ Our Lord the fauiour of Ifrael liueth, that if it were done by Ionathas my fonne, he shal die without reuoking. Whereunto none of the people gaynefayed him. ⁴⁰ And he fayd to al Ifrael: Be you feperated into one fide, and I with Ionathas my fonne wil be on the other fide. And the people answered Saul: Doe what femeth good in thyn eies. ⁴¹ And Saul fayd to our Lord: Lord God of Ifrael, geue me a figne: and Ionathas was caught and Saul, and the people went forth. ⁴² And Saul fayd: Caft ye lotte betwen me, and Ionathas my fonne. And

^a VVherof folowed alfo an other finne, that the people fainting for lacke of meate did eate flefh with the blood, contrarie to the law.

^b Before, *v. 19*. Saul would not expect Gods anfwere: now therefore God wil not anfwere him.

^{a)} Ionathas was taken. ⁴³ And Saul fayd to Ionathas: Tel me what thou haft done. And Ionathas told him, and fayd: Tafting I tafted in the tippe of the rod, which was in myn hand a litle honie, and behold I die. ⁴⁴ And Saul fayd: Thefe thinges doe God to me, and thefe thinges adde he, that dying thou shalt die Ionathas. ⁴⁵ And the people faid to Saul: Shal Ionathas then die, which hath made this great faluation in Ifrael? this is vnlawful: our Lord liueth, if there shal fal a heare from his head vpon the ground, becaufe with God hath he wrought to day. The people therefore deliuered Ionathas, that he should not die. ⁴⁶ And Saul retyred, neither did he purfew the Philiftijms: moreouer the Philiftijms departed into their places. ⁴⁷ And Saul, his kingdom being eftablished ouer Ifrael, fought round about againft al his enemies, againft Moab, and the children of Ammon, and Edom, and the kinges of Soba, and the Philiftians: and whither foeuer he turned him felf, he ouercame. ⁴⁸ And gathering together an armie, he ftroke Amalec, and deliuered Ifrael from the hand of the fpoilers thereof. ⁴⁹ And the fonnes of Saul, were Ionathas and Iefui, and Melchifua: and the names of his two daughters, the name of the firft borne Merob, and the name of the yonger Michol. ⁵⁰ And the name of Sauls wife, Achinoam the daughter of Achimaas: and the name of the prince of his hoft Abner, the fonne of Ner, the cofin german of Saul by the father. ⁵¹ Moreouer Cis was the father of Saul, and Ner the father of Abner, the fonne of Abiel. ⁵² And there was mightie battel agaynft the Philiftians al the dayes of Saul. For whomfoeuer Saul had feene a valiant man, and fitte for battel, he ioyned him to him felf.

^a Ionathas was found to haue tranfgreffed the vnaduifed cōmandment, but Saul him felf was in a greater fault of rafh proceding, and vndifcrete commanding.