

AGAINST ALL ODDS Pastor Jarrod Davidoff August 1, 2021

We read about things in the bible that at times seem impossible or miraculous or just insane.

Then we watch Hollywood movies with superheroes flying through the air, climbing buildings and possessing unheard of strength.

It almost seems like for some people a fictitious Hollywood script is in the realm of believable or possible BUT the Bible is not.

Let me share with you today that everything we read about in the bible has been thoroughly examined by the greatest minds and scholars, historians and geologists, scientists and the like. All honest concussions find that the bible is true and can be trusted.

One such historical encounter that happened in Israel's history is one of those encounters that if not recorded would be folk tale.

In fact when we think of Hollywood action movies no one comes close to Rambo or the terminator of the statistics of massive overwhelming odds.

Well buckle your seats and prepare to hear one of the greatest acts of faith and courage ever heard of in history.

Here's the backdrop:

Saul was king of Israel and a pending national disaster was facing them.

1 Samuel 13:1 Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel, **2** Saul chose for himself three thousand *men* of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in the mountains of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent away, every man to his tent.

A massive Philistine army was gathered together to attack them.

1 Samuel 13:5 Then the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, [c]thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which *is* on the seashore in multitude. And they came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth Aven.

What made matters worse was that Israel was totally ill prepared. That's bewildering. You see you don't play WAR. It's not the best of 3 games wins. It's kill or be killed. It's either you going home today alive or in a body bag.

You would have thought he would have been more prepared YET NOT.

LESSON NO 1 PREPARATION

Be prepared for the calling God has for you

1. BE TRAINED

– COLLEGE OR COURSES, SEMINARS.

Rhema Bible College and then worked for Rhema Church and did EE3 evangelism course, read revival books, watched Reinhard and Billy Graham

CHURCH has a key role in preparing you to be victorious and successful.

Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, (**MY RESPONSIBILITY AND LUCINDAS AND THE MINISTERS IN THIS CHURCH, CONNECT GROUP LEADERS IS TO PREPARE YOU SPIRITUALLY. When the devil comes against you and there are spiritual attacks you need to know how to defend yourself and fight back...fight the good fight of faith**)

It's knowing the Lord, knowing His plan for your life and knowing His voice and knowing His Word so that you don't fall into traps and that you don't do things that violate His word and disqualify you from receiving His blessings.

for the edifying of the body of Christ, **13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; **14** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **15** but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

That's why I love that scripture that says

Daniel 11:32 Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; **but the people who know their God shall be strong,** and carry out *great exploits*. **33** And those of the people who understand shall instruct many;

2. BE MENTORED

God wants his children to be in fellowship and be mentored. A mentor is someone who knows more than you in a certain area.

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron,
So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Psalms 145:4 One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts.

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. **3** You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. **4** No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise *men* will be wise,
But the companion of fools will be destroyed.

-Reinhard Bonnke and others

-Elijah and Elisha

-Paul and Silas

When we look at what was about to unravel between Jonathan and his armor bearer and the Philistines was epic. Jonathan was the prince of Israel but his dad the king didn't mentor him which was actually a good thing as he was a weak person who was not fully committed to the Lord.

Make sure you choose your mentors wisely.

3. BE PREPARED

Unfortunately, this was not the case with them, yet the Lord used it to show forth His mighty power so that Israel couldn't brag in themselves. They had rejected having God as their leader and petitioned Samuel the prophet for a king like the nations had. So the Lord is like, 'Oh well...you guys want a king to protect and defend you, well here he is''

The Lord wants us to prepare for what He has called us to be and do.

Jesus said in Luke **14:31** Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?

Success happens when preparation meets opportunity.

Start working on your Vision wall

Start working on your Business proposal

Prepare for your promotion

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

4. BE LED BY HIS SPIRIT

1 Samuel 14:1 Now it happened one day that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistines' garrison that *is* on the other side." But he did not tell his father. **(THAT WAS A GOOD THING-DON'T TELL NEGATIVE FAITHLESS PEOPLE WHAT YOU ATTEMPTING TO DO FOR THE LORD INCASE THEY TRY TO TALK YOU OUT OF IT. SHARE WITH LIKE MINDED TRUSTED FRIENDS AND MENTORS)** **2** And Saul was sitting in the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which *is* in Migron. **(SAUL WAS DELUSIONAL. HIS NATION WAS FACING A POSSIBLE SLAUGHTER AND HE'S UNDER A POMEGRANATE TREE. TALK ABOUT DERELICTION FROM DUTY)** The people who *were* with him *were* about six hundred men. **3** Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD's priest in Shiloh, was wearing an ephod. But the people did not know that Jonathan had gone.

4 Between the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistines' garrison, *there was* a sharp rock on one side and a sharp rock on the other side. And the name of one *was* Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. **5** The front of one faced northward opposite Michmash, and the other southward opposite Gibeah.

6 Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few." **(THIS WAS AN INCREDIBLE FAITH CONFESSION THAT THE LORD MUST HAVE PUT IN HIS HEART)**

7 So his armorbearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart." **(NOW THAT'S A MAN OF FAITH, A FAITHFUL TEAM MEMBER . If you don't have the faith for some things go on the FAITH of others)**

There are a lot of things you can do for God BUT you must only do what he wants YOU to do. Don't try to walk into another person's purpose, you will be miserable and fail. Do what God has called you to do.

And even in doing what He wants you to do there is HIS TIMING.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To everything *there is* a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven:

Jonathan felt in his spirit that God wanted to do something special here.

5. BE BRAVE

Proverbs 28:1 The wicked flee when no one pursues,
But the righteous are bold as a lion.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and
to the end of the earth.”

1 Samuel 14:8 Then Jonathan said, “Very well, let us cross over to *these* men, and
we will show ourselves to them. **9** If they say thus to us, ‘Wait until we come to
you,’ then we will stand still in our place and not go up to them. **10** But if they say
thus, ‘Come up to us,’ then we will go up. For the LORD has delivered them into our
hand, and this *will be* a sign to us.”

11 So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the
Philistines said, “Look, the Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they
have hidden.” **(JUST THINK OF THAT FOR A MOMENT. UNDER KING SAUL THEY
LIVING IN FEAR, LIVING IN CAVES)** **12** Then the men of the garrison called to
Jonathan and his armorbearer, and said, “Come up to us, and we will show you
something.” **(THAT WAS ALL JONATHAN NEEDED. HE WAS LIKE A BULL SEEING
RED)**

Jonathan said to his armorbearer, “Come up after me, for the LORD has delivered
them into the hand of Israel.” **(JONATHAN HAD SPECIAL FAITH...THE GOD KIND**

OF FAITH.) 13 And Jonathan climbed up on his hands and knees with his armorbearer after him; and they fell before Jonathan. And as he came after him, his armorbearer killed them. **14** That first slaughter which Jonathan and his armorbearer made was about twenty men within about half an acre of land. **(TAKE NOTE THAT JONATHAN HAD TO FIGHT.)**

1 SETS \$1,000 to flight

2 sets \$10,000

15 And there was trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and the raiders also trembled; and the earth quaked, so that it was a very great trembling.

16 Now the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and *there* was the multitude, melting away; and they went here and there. **17** Then Saul said to the people who *were* with him, “Now call the roll and see who has gone from us.” And when they had called the roll, surprisingly, Jonathan and his armorbearer *were* not *there*. **18** And Saul said to Ahijah, “Bring the ark of God here” (**for at that time the ark of God was with the children of Israel**). **19** Now it happened, while Saul talked to the priest, that the noise which *was* in the camp of the Philistines continued to increase; so Saul said to the priest, “Withdraw your hand.” **20** Then Saul and all the people who *were* with him assembled, and they went to the battle; and indeed every man’s sword was against his neighbor, *and there was* very great confusion. **21** Moreover **the Hebrews who were with the Philistines before that time, who went up with them into the camp from the surrounding country, they also joined the Israelites** who *were* with Saul and Jonathan. **22** Likewise all the men of Israel who had hidden in the mountains of Ephraim, *when* they heard that the Philistines fled, they also followed hard after them in the battle.

Their act of bravery

- 1. brought a great deliverance from the Philistines**
- 2. caused the Israel army to rise up**
- 3. caused Israel citizens who betrayed their nation to return**

Your act of bravery

1. **Will set the captives free**
2. **Will cause your friends to also be courageous**
3. **Will cause backslidden Christians to return to the Lord**