

## Courageous Soldiers



**Suggested Props:** Sword

**Scripture:** [1 Samuel 14: 6-7](#)

*And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the Lord will work for us: for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few.*

*And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart.*

**Introduction:**

Being a hero in battle is not something you can plan in advance. When you become a soldier you go through a training regimen that strengthens you physically and mentally. It helps condition you to be as prepared as possible for battle, but **there is no training that will MAKE you a hero.**

When the crisis comes, will you have that inner strength to stand taller than you think you are?

Jonathan and his armor bearer had that inner strength, as well as, complete trust in God's will for their lives.

What made Jonathan become a great hero that literally saved his nation? Read [1 Sam. 14: 6-7](#)

### **What Got Him Into This Fight?**

Jonathan was the son of King Saul. His father had decided to rise up against the domination of the Philistines. In chapter 13 we learn that Saul had put together 3000 men with 2000 under the king's command and 1000 under Jonathan, his son. This sounds fine on the surface, but they had no swords or shields (except for the King and Jonathan, the Prince).

The Israeli soldiers only had staffs (sticks) and some farm tools, and they had no training.

On the other hand, the Philistines had 30,000 chariots (armored divisions), 6000 horsemen (cavalry), and an enormous number of warriors (infantry).

It looks like their Commander-In-Chief had gotten them into a war that looked impossible. Think about what the politicians and news media were saying about King Saul and his crazy plan.

**We have heard the media talk about a war being unpopular, but this was unpopular and looked impossible to win.**

### **What Was His Chance of Success?**

Things had been tough in the earlier battles and now they are down to about 600 men.

To make things worse, King Saul had tried to take over the duties of the priests as well as being a king at war (he was a bit over ambitious).

Samuel the prophet had come to King Saul and told him that God would not let his reign go on for much longer.

**We now have an out-numbered army with no weapons, led by a lame-duck commander, and he is cross-ways with God.**

Would you like to be in this army at this time? I don't think so!

If you did find yourself in an army with a weak Commander-In-Chief in an unpopular war, would you be able to muster courage and give it your best, or would you criticize the leadership behind your commander's back?

Jonathan was a man of character, not a spoiled prince. He saw that they were in a mess: The army was afraid and were hiding in caves, thickets, and pits (*1 Sam. 13:6*). The out-numbered Army of Israel needed something to restore courage.

Jonathan took action and decided to risk everything to rally the king's army. Jonathan told his armor bearer (yes, remember that only two people in this army had swords and shields) that **the two of them should attack the mighty Philistine army.**

He knew that his dad, the king, was cross-ways with God, but he said *"it may be that the Lord will work for us: for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few"*. Jonathan was willing to risk his life to see if, by some miracle, the Philistines could be defeated. By the way, his armor bearer said *"I am with thee according to thy heart"*.

This is where *"A Few Good Men"* can make a difference if they have courage and their cause is just in God's sight.

### **What Was His Attack Strategy?**

Jonathan told his armor bearer that they would climb up out of the ditch they were in and **ask if any Philistines were ready to fight.** If the Philistine soldiers answered: *Wait there so we can come to you;* then Jonathan would go no further. However, if the Philistines say: *Come on up unto us;* then Jonathan said **"WE WILL ATTACK!!!"**

This was not exactly West Point battle strategy! Without a miracle from God it was going to be a very short fight with two Hebrews lying dead on the ground.

However, God had already been at work preparing a miracle to save Jonathan, his armor bearer, and the nation of Israel.

**All because of the courage of Jonathan and his fellow soldier, Israel would be the victors.** Think about how different things would have been if Jonathan had not had the courage.

*"Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and on his feet"*, he stood upright and slew 20 Philistine warriors right away. This struck fear in all that saw what Jonathan did.

At the very same time that Jonathan took action, so did God. God sent an earthquake to let everyone know who was fighting with Jonathan. **The Philistines started a full retreat because it was obvious that this great army was no match for one courageous man with a faithful armor bearer and a God that fought alongside of him.**

### **Conclusion:**

No matter what problems or battles come along in your life, keep in mind that a child of God has the advantage. If you are born-again or saved then you can have God available to help you in your struggle. All you need to do is muster the courage that is needed to stand up straight and be courageous. If you are not born-again then you will have to do your fighting all alone: A good soldier never wants to wage war all alone.