

Week 11 - 27 April 2024

Saul's Altar and Death Threat

Background

Last week we left unfinished the story of Jonathan the honey-eater who did not hear his father's rash curse on any troop member who ate food before evening and Saul being avenged on his enemies. We pick up the story following Jonathan eating some honey having not heard his father's curse.

Scripture

Please read 1 Samuel 14: 24, 29 – 14: 52; Gen 9: 4-5; Exodus 28:30; Numbers 27:21

Questions for Discussion

1. Vs. 29 – 30: What do you think about Jonathan's response when he heard about his father's curse?
2. Vs. 31 – 32: Were the troops right or wrong to take the enemy's animals for slaughter?
3. Vs. 32 – 34: What scenes come to mind as you read this?
4. V. 35: Was Saul right or wrong to build 'his first altar'? Why?
5. Vs. 24, 39: Last week we started a discussion regarding Saul's character. Vs 24 refers to Saul's 'rash act'. Was his statement in v. 39 also rash? What might this suggest further about Saul's character?
6. V 43: What might have gone through Jonathan's mind and with what tone of voice do you think he responded to the charge? What might this suggest regarding Jonathan's character?
7. V 44: What might have gone through Saul's mind as he saw the result of the lot. What do you think of Saul's response? Has this modified your opinion regarding Saul's character?
8. V. 45: What do you think about the people's response to the sentence pronounced on Jonathan and its outcome?
9. Vs. 47 – 52: This appears to be a brief summary of Saul's battles and his family situated between two very detailed warring situations (the second one starting in chapter 15). Any comments?

