

“Staying Stable When You're Stressed”

1 Samuel 13

13:1-2 Setting: text is rough here: “Saul was _____ year old when he became king, and he ruled two years.” See Acts 13:21

13:3-7 Sudden attack ignites Philistine furry

*Jonathan attacks a garrison deep in Israel (Philistines still exert some control, recall 7:13 but see 9:14, 13:19-21).

*Philistine response: 3,000 chariots, NIV (not 30,000, recall Jdgs 1:19, 4:3), a cavalry of 6,000, and lots of foot soldiers!

13:8-14 Stress leads Saul to crash and burn his dynasty

Big problems face Saul: enemy is really mad, 4
people deserting 6,11,15
people staying were scared to death
people in army were ill-equipped, 22
there was no blessing yet (Samuel)

Big mistake of Saul, Recall 7:8-11, 10:8, cf. 2 Chron. 26

Big loss of Saul: eternal dynasty over, 13,14. See 2:31-35.

13:15-23 Samuel leaves and all looks hopeless

*The bad odds are accentuated: 600 troops left, the Philistines are sending out destructive units to break Israelite morale, and the weaponry definitely favors the Philistines.

*Looking ahead. . . Saul actually didn't have to stress out did he? Jonathan did OK though outnumbered and the Israelites do get a big victory later (14:6,14, 23).

*Do you let stress cause
you to run red lights?*

*Do you try to do a job
you're not meant to do,
hoping to help out?*

*Do you sometimes get
impatient with obtaining
God's blessing and try
to force the issue?*