



FRIENDS

War was a way of life for Israel in the days of Saul. He fought against all his enemies - Moab, Ammon, Edom, and the Philistines. 1 Samuel says, "Wherever he turned, he inflicted punishment." The war against the Philistines waged all the days of Saul's reign. Saul had three sons; Jonathan was most prominent. Jonathan was with his father and the people preparing to fight. The garrison of the Philistines went out to attack Israel. Jonathan said to his armor bearer, *Come and let us cross over to the Philistines' camp.*" He didn't tell his father what he was doing. As he traveled toward the enemy, Jonathan said to his servant, "Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps the LORD will work for us, for the LORD is not restrained to save by many or by few." 7 His armor bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart; turn yourself, and here I am with you according to your desire." 1 Samuel 14:6-7

Jonathan believed that God was with him. He faced the enemy and killed 20 Philistines. His victory caused the camp to tremble. Even the earth trembled so that the multitude melted away.

In 1 Samuel 17 we find the story of another young man. He was not a warrior but he had zeal for serving God. He saw how Israel trembled in the face of taunts by the champion of the Philistines. Again the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together." 1 Samuel 17:10 Israel refused to fight but David said, "...For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?" 32 David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 1 Samuel 17:26, 32

45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. 46

"This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, 1 Samuel 17:45-46

David and Jonathan had this in common - a powerful faith in the power of God to deliver his people. Both were able to communicate that to others. Jonathan's armor bearer fought beside his master. Saul sent David to face Goliath. Israel became believers because of David's faith.

David and Jonathan were "kindred spirits". They became friends. 1 Samuel 18 says that "*the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David and Jonathan loved him as himself.*" Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him and gave him his armor, sword, bow, and belt. When Saul turned against David, Jonathan stood between David and his own father.

Amos wrote, "*Can two walk together unless they agree?*" David and Jonathan were friends because they had something in common. They were able to walk together as friends. That friendship was blessed because of their understanding of the value of serving a God who keeps his promises.