

# TWO SOLDIERS CONQUER THOUSANDS

## 1 Samuel 14 retold

King Saul was in a fix. The Philistines had gathered their army to make war against the Israelites. When the Israelites saw that they were greatly outnumbered, they became fearful and fled. Some hid in caves, holes, and thickets among the rocks, while others crossed the Jordan River to safety on the other side.

This left a small band of about 600 men camped with King Saul and his son Jonathan near the town of Geba, which was the moment of weakness the Philistines were waiting for. The Philistines sent raiding parties out in a three-pronged maneuver to prepare for an assault, and one detachment approached the rocky pass at Micmash.

Among the meager troops, there was one soldier who was undaunted by the advantage of the enemy. It was King Saul's own son, Jonathan.

"Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side of the pass," Jonathan said to his armor bearer. He hadn't told his father about his plan; in fact, no one was aware that Jonathan and his armor bearer had left the army encampment.

As Jonathan approached the high cliff on the other side of the pass, he spoke courageously to his armor bearer, "Come, let's check out these enemies. It may be that God will work for us. After all, God isn't limited in His power to save us, whether we're many or few."

Jonathan's declaration of faith inspired his armor bearer, who responded, "I am all in!"

Cautiously the two soldiers began the climb up the steep rocky wall leading to the enemy garrison.





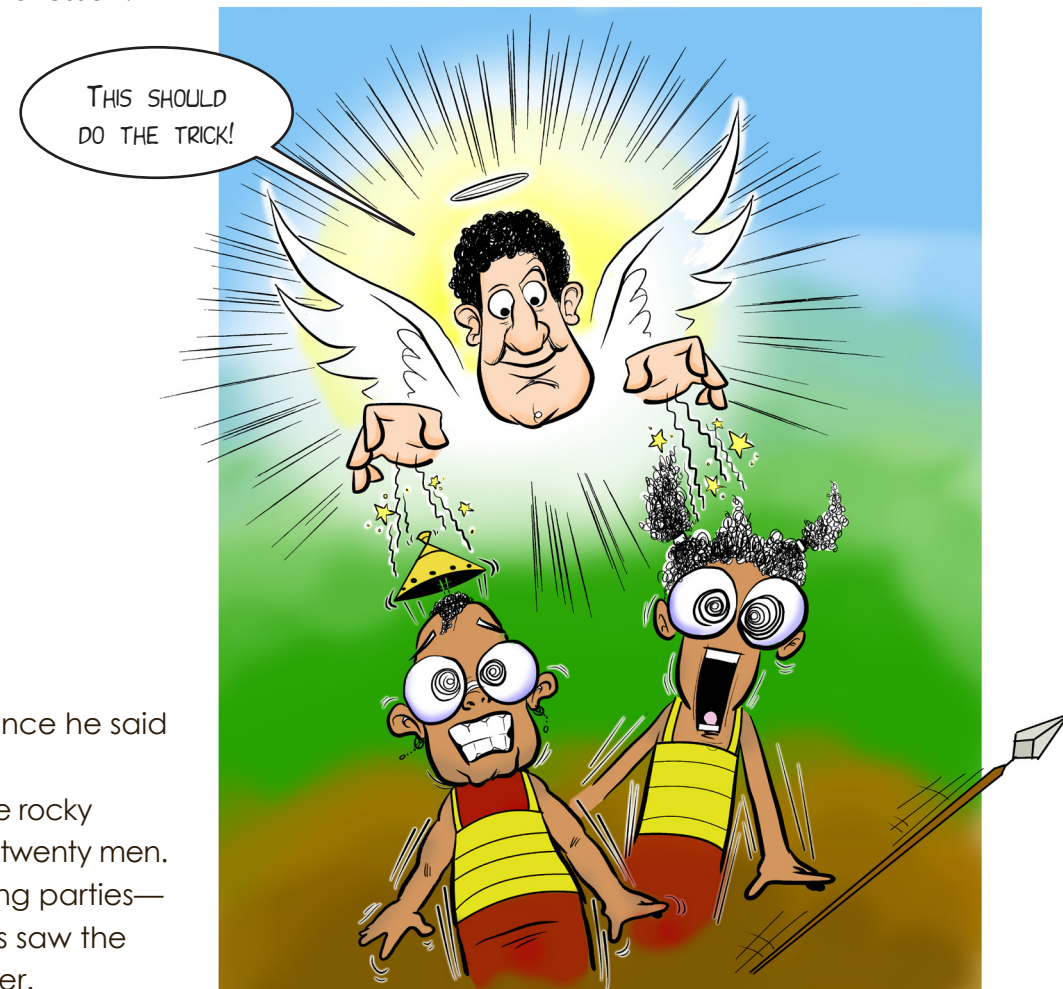
It was the sign that Jonathan had hoped for, and with the voice of assurance he said to his armor bearer, "Climb up with me. The Lord will give us the victory!"

The two brave soldiers were filled with faith as they scaled the last stretch of the rocky height. Arriving at the top, the young warriors drew their weapons and defeated twenty men.

Then panic struck the army of the Philistines—those in the camp and raiding parties—and suddenly the earth began to quake and tremble! As King Saul's lookouts saw the enemy army seemingly melting away, they took courage and rallied together.

As they reached a point not far from their enemies, Jonathan said, "Let's move out into the open and let the Philistines see us. If they say, 'Stay where you are. We'll come to you,' we won't go after them. But if they say, 'Come to us,' we will climb up, for that will be a sign to us that indeed the Lord has given them into our hands!"

Jonathan and his armor bearer came to an opening where they could easily be seen. As soon as the watchmen of the Philistines saw them, they roared mockingly, "Look, the Hebrews are crawling out of the holes they were hiding in!" Then the men shouted down to them, "Come up here and we'll teach you a lesson."





When King Saul discovered that Jonathan and his armor bearer were gone, he sent his men into the battle, only to find the Philistines in total confusion, even slaughtering each other with their own swords. At that point, even the Israelite soldiers who had abandoned camp and had hidden themselves for fear of the enemy came out of hiding to fight. When the Philistines saw them coming, they started to run, and the men of Israel followed in hot pursuit. A truly great victory was won!

On that day the Lord rescued Israel through the courageous action of young Jonathan and his armor bearer.

If you have God with you, you're unbeatable, no matter how small you are. One man and God are a majority.

"And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" (1 John 5:4 NKJV).

## THINK ABOUT IT:

Jonathan asked God for a sign to make sure that God was with him in what he was about to do. Are you facing a challenge that frightens you? When you know God is with you in your endeavor, you can confidently look to Him for counsel and then rest assured that He will guide and care for you.

