

1 Samuel 13:15-23 **Pitiful unarmed Army of Israel**

Pitiful army of Israel at Gibeah of Benjamin

15 Then Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people present with him, about six hundred men.

16 Saul, Jonathan his son, and the people present with them remained in Gibeah of Benjamin. But the Philistines encamped in Michmash. 17 Then raiders came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies. One company turned onto the road to Ophrah, to the land of Shual, 18 another company turned to the road to Beth Horon, and another company turned to the road of the border that overlooks the Valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

19 Now there was no blacksmith to be found throughout all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, "Lest the Hebrews make swords or spears." 20 But all the Israelites would go down to the Philistines to sharpen each man's plowshare, his mattock, his ax, and his sickle; 21 and the charge for a sharpening was a pim for the plowshares, the mattocks, the forks, and the axes, and to set the points of the goads. 22 So it came about, on the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people who were with Saul and Jonathan. But they were found with Saul and Jonathan his son.

23 And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.

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Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Saul started this campaign with an army of 3,000 hand picked soldiers. [[1 Samuel 13:1-2](#)]
- ✧ The Philistines came out in an innumerable army and camped at Michmash. [[1 Samuel 13:5](#)]
- ✧ After his foolish sacrifice, Saul's terrified army has dwindled to 600 men. [[1 Samuel 13:15](#)]
- ✧ Saul and Jonathan are together with their army at Gibeah of Benjamin. [[1 Samuel 13:16](#)]
- ✧ Three bands of raiders were operating from the camp of the Philistines at Michmash. [[1 Samuel 13:17-18](#)]
- ✧ The Philistines had prevented Israel from having weapons of war, and Israel was dependent upon the Philistines even for their farming tools. [[1 Samuel 13:19-21](#)]
- ✧ In all the army of Israel, only Saul and Jonathan had swords.