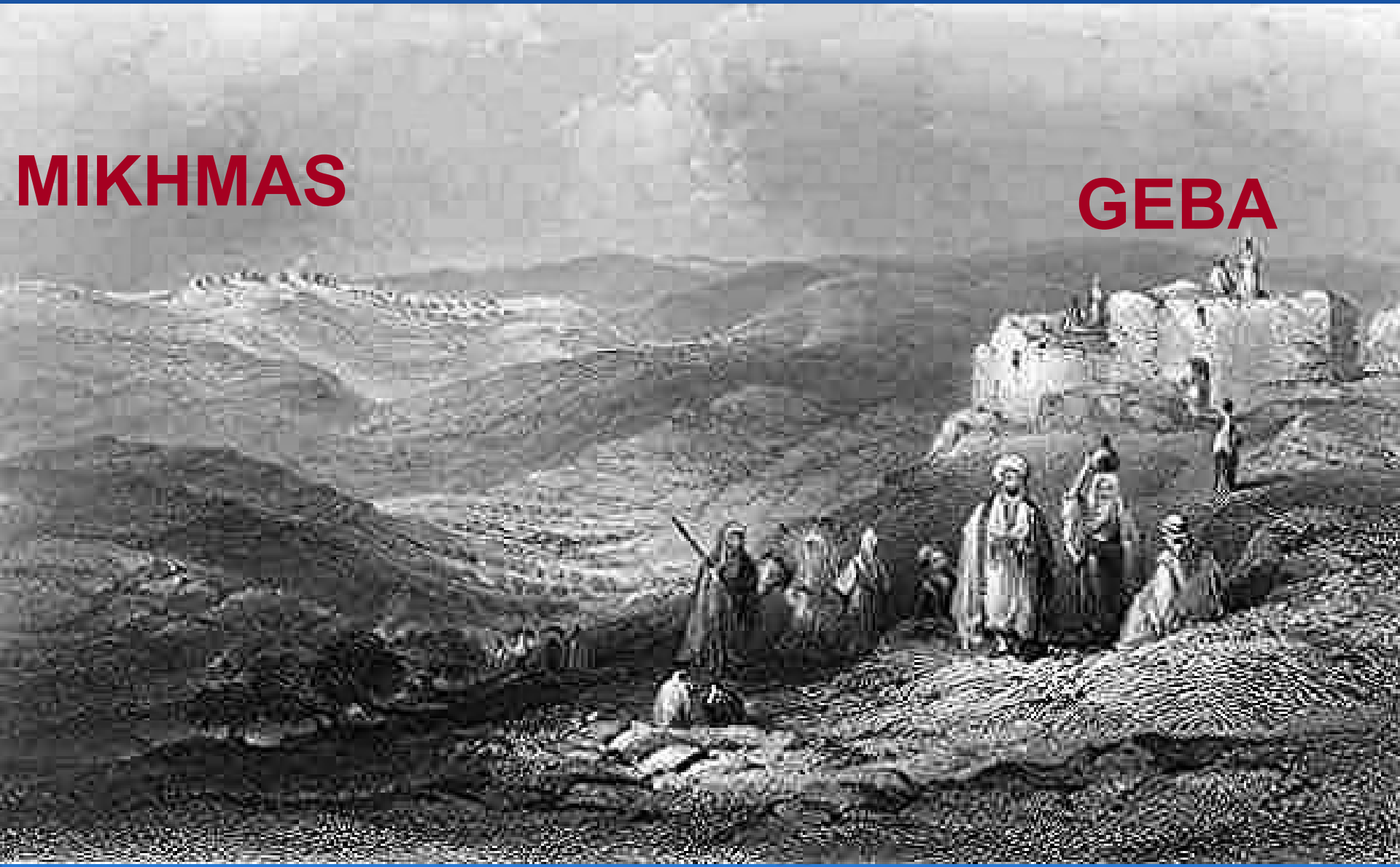


# 1<sup>ST</sup> SAMUEL 14: THE BATTLE OF MIKHMAS PASS

**MIKHMAS**

**GEBA**



# THE INDECISIVE KING SAUL

- Saul lollygagging under a Pomegranate Tree in Geba area
- Y'honatan getting tired of doing nothing
- King Saul much like the stereotype of a modern politician
- Mostly talk, self interest came first, courage based on people's support
- Jonathan determined in faith, Saul determined to manipulate God



# JONATHAN THE INSTIGATOR



- Jonathan challenges the Philistines
- Saul and Jonathan much alike in temperament and personality
- But entirely different in nature and character
- King Saul a picture of what a king should NOT BE
- Jonathan a picture of what happens when we focus on God and not our circumstances

# *“Come up towards us.....”*



- The Philistines' answer to Jonathan confirms the sign he was looking for
- The top of the ravine was very long but narrow, like a tunnel
- Jonathan could effectively fight 1 soldier at a time
- About 20 enemy soldier were killed
- Saul's spies saw the chaos in the Philistine camp from a distance and told Saul

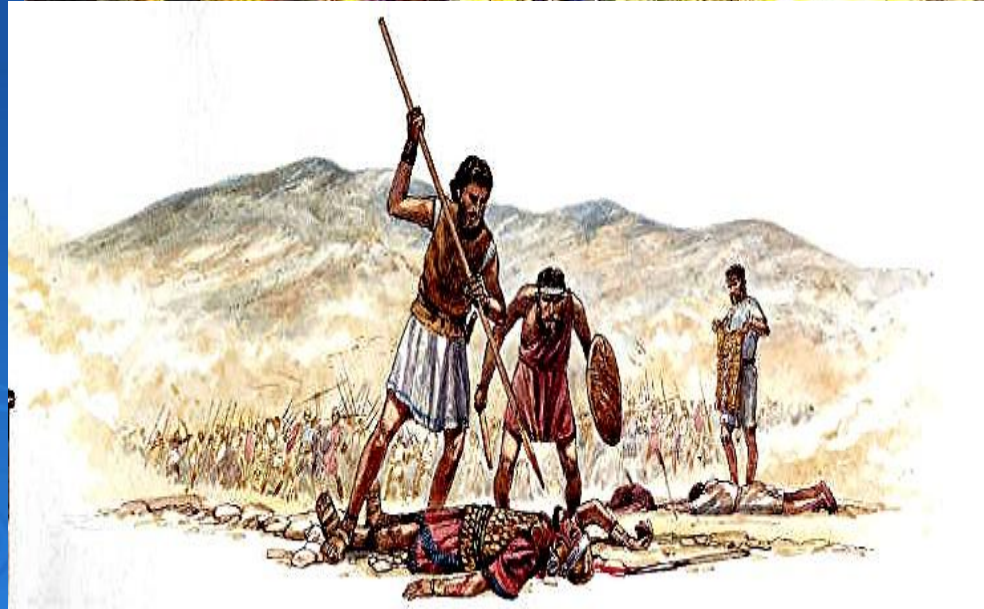
# KING SAUL JOINS THE BATTLE



- King Sha'ul calls for his High Priest *Achiyah* and to bring the Ark of God
- High Priest begins to consult with God through the Urim and Thummim but Saul loses patience
- Saul finds the Philistines killing one another and scattering
- Hebrews who had cut deals with the Philistines, and others who were in hiding, joined Saul in the rout

# BATTLES WERE LONG AFFAIRS

- Stamina as important as ability
- Exhaustion, thirst, and low blood sugar levels caused soldiers to faint
- Saul orders his men to chase the Philistines even though they were spent
- Saul forced his army to take a solemn vow NOT TO EAT



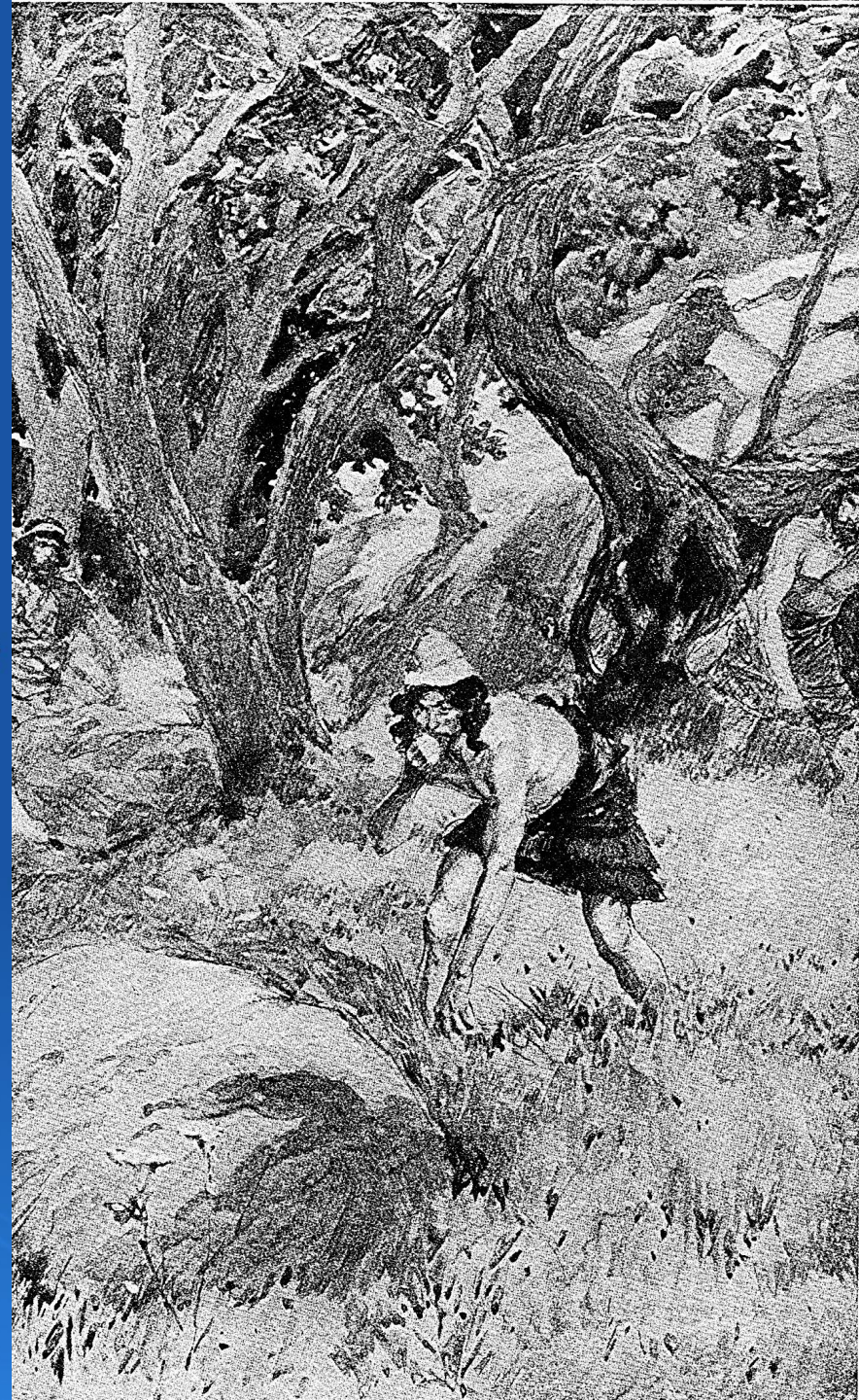
# THE DANGER OF VOWS AND OATHS



- Saul quickly became a despot
- The vow King Saul made his men say “amen” to was rash and destructive, but fully valid !
- Yeshua advises against making oaths and vows, just saying “yes” or “no”
- Making a vow or oath in God’s name is serious, and God expects the terms to be fulfilled

# THE LORD PROVIDES HONEY

- Honey (*devash*) revives quickly
- Honey used then like chocolate was used in WWII
- Army found a forest FULL of honey, but had to bypass due to Saul's absurd vow
- *Y'honatan* did not know of the vow and ate some honey
- When he finds out about his father's vow he denounces it as needless "trouble"





# BLOOD AND SALT



- The curse of the oath against eating ended with the start of a new day (sunset)
- Soldiers began slaughtering the meat on the ground
- Lev. 17:10 ***“...I will set myself against that person who eats blood..”***
- Salt was used in 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple period to absorb the blood from the meat
- Bloody salt was thrown on pathways to keep them clear of vegetation

# LEADERS CAN CAUSE OUR CHARGES TO FAIL

- When we put merciless or unreasonable demands on people we can CAUSE them to fail or to sin
- Doctrines and Traditions that go well beyond the Biblical intent can cause failure
- Matt. 11: 30 ***“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”***
- Saul was as responsible for the people’s sin of blood as were the people themselves



# SAULS WANTS TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT

- After the army has eaten and rested Saul wants to continue the fight at night
- High Priest first wants to consult with God “here”
- “Here” is where Saul built an altar
- High Priest uses Urim and Thummim, stored in a pouch inside of his Ephod
- Questions had to be asked in a yes/no format
- But God does NOT answer, so Saul decides someone has sinned

