

The Lord's Rebuke of Saul.

Introduction: It is helpful to remember how this passage fits into the overall context of 1 Samuel. Chapter 13 begins the intertwined stories of the decline of Saul and the rise of David that will be a major theme of the remainder of the book. Note the first indirect mention of David in verse 14 that “the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart.” (NIV) In this narrative, Saul serves as a foil for David. In literature, a foil is a character who serves as a contrast to another perhaps more primary character, to point out specific traits of the primary character. As the story develops, we will see Jonathan—first mentioned in this week’s passage—also emerge as another foil.

Q. 1. Chapter 13 describes yet another of the Israelites’ confrontations with the Philistines. Who starts this one; what is the consequence?

Q. 2. Compare this confrontation with the previous confrontations:
○ with the Philistines in Chapter 7 and
○ the Ammonites in Chapter 11

Q. 3. (a) Why is this sacrifice so important?

(b) What is wrong with Saul’s sacrifice? Consider that both David (2 Samuel 24:25) and Solomon (1 Kings 3:15) will make similar sacrifices with no hint of rebuke.

Q. 4. Samuel finally arrives. What is Saul’s reaction? Samuel’s? What is the result?

Q. 5. Just as Saul is a foil for David, giving us an example by which to compare, how does Saul compare to us?