

Septuagint Grk translation of Hebrew text *'It came to pass after a month'* as does Latin Vulgate. Saul went back to secular life.

1 Now Nahash the Ammonite came up and besieged Jabesh-gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a covenant with us and we will serve you." 2 But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "I will make it with you on this condition, that I will gouge out the right eye of every one of you, thus I will make it a reproach on all Israel." 3 And the elders of Jabesh said to him, "Let us alone for seven days, that we may send messengers throughout the territory of Israel. Then, if there is no one to deliver us, we will come out to you."

Ammon son of Lot Ab nephew by Lot's youngest daughter **Gen 19:38**

Ammonites related to Jewish people yet adversaries, located on East side of Jordan River as is Jabesh-gilead. Who were defeated by Israel when they came into the land. But still claimed territory East of Jordan River as their own. Nahash name lit **'Snake'** Not wanting long protracted battle he negotiates for peace & demands they submit right eye gouged out a sign of defeated prisoners of war but no loss of life.

Enemy knows when people are backslid-easy prey-no real communication, commitment to spiritual things. Willing to surrender--compromise if leave us alone--incapacitate so not fight, give up & give in...take away will to resist.

No protest or seeking Lord, no holy indignation, but look to others for help, deliverance outside themselves. Need to stand on own w/ Lord as their strength. But they willing to give up freedom for safety.

Nahash practice of mutilation can be explained from Masoretic Text (**text of the tradition, authoritative Hebrew & Aramaic text**) Jewish historian Josephus attests to the longer form which reads 'Now Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had been grievously oppressing the Gadites and the

Ruebenites... Getting even w/ them for conquering the land in days of Joshua.

Israel thought by having a king it would deter conflict w/ other nations but come to realize having a king is not all it's cracked up to be, didn't keep the enemy at bay but just the opposite provoked them (**our king is stronger than your king**) . A disgrace and humiliation to gouge out the eye also ruin soldiers for warfare, impede their ability to use weapons.

[A physician at Duke health](#) "adults who lose sight in 1 eye have declines in their abilities to accurately track moving objects, to judge distances, & to perceive depth." Clearly one eyed warriors would have a high fatality rate!

4 Then the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and spoke these words in the hearing of the people, and all the people lifted up their voices and wept. 5 Now behold, Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen; and he said, "What is the matter with the people that they weep?" So they related to him the words of the men of Jabesh. 6 Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul mightily when he heard these words, and he became very angry. 7 And he took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces, and sent them throughout the territory of Israel by the hand of messengers, saying, "Whoever does not come out after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen." Then the dread of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out as one man.

Saul was despised by some 10:27 & neglected by others so he returned to secular life in the field plowing. Wondering as he worked if anything would come of all that had happened to him. When he heard of the threats by Nahash the bully Godly anger stirred him—moved to action by injustice.

"There is a holy anger in the face of injustice and evil which is an essential part of the spirit filled life in every age' WT Purkiser Beacon comm.

Saul stirred w/ righteous indignation—ESV spirit 'rushed upon' mighty rushing wind.... Dread or fear of the Lord came upon, moved them to action...When a leader leads God's Spirit moves the people.

Threat to livestock if not join in. Some moved by love others by threats but if it's life or death situation whatever it take to make people do the right thing. **Our country...do or die situation...**

8 And he numbered them in Bezek; and the sons of Israel were 300,000, and the men of Judah 30,000. 9 And they said to the messengers who had come, "Thus you shall say to the men of Jabesh-gilead, 'Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have deliverance.'" So the messengers went and told the men of Jabesh; and they were glad. 10 Then the men of Jabesh said, "Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you may do to us whatever seems good to you." 11 And it happened the next morning that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the camp at the morning watch, and struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day. And it came about that those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

Saul familiar w/ Gideons victory over Mideanites divided people in three companies and struck at dark (morning watch 2 am to 6 am) caught enemy by surprise. God gave Saul ability and wisdom for battle to establish him before the people. Success can puff a person up or humble them.

They lied to gain advantage...was it wrong? You don't negotiate w/ a snake or the devil. You answer a fool according to his folly. If he's a brute and bully and wants to mutilate in order to subdue you do what Yael did, invite Sisera in give milk when falls asleep drive tent peg thru his temple Jdg 4:21. Today? No negotiating w/ Nazi Germany. If Diedrich Bonhoeffer **Picture** plot to assassinate Hitler had been successful years earlier it would have saved millions who went to gas chambers-women and children, young and old men. **Pray, preach and act.**

Gen 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

12 Then the people said to Samuel, "Who is he that said, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Bring the men, that we may put them to death." 13 But Saul said, "Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the LORD has accomplished deliverance

in Israel.” 14 Then Samuel said to the people, “Come and let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there.” 15 So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they also offered sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

Saul doesn't retaliate against those that put him down as their leader.

Coming flush w/ victory it seemed like the noble thing to do...real or for show? In time what is true about a person shows...the wickedness of his heart shows as we will later see. But for now he grandstands, the hero over enemy and w/ his people. Another coronation after the battle officially installing him as King...no longer in the field plowing. All rejoiced

God had routed professional fighters, while men of Israel joined for battle were simple farmers. God's spirit gives ability beyond experience, equips and gifts for service.

Samuel took opportunity to gather the people, giving thanks to Lord and establishing Saul as king over Israel. Met at Gilgal significant for it's history crossing the Jordan Joshua *rolled away* peoples reproach. Now a coronation of king Saul sacrifice of Peace offering fellowship w/ God and establish new relationship w/ God and nation in covenant of dedication and obedience to Lord and king. A time of revival and rejoicing as their new king celebrates Israel's victory over enemy in his first battle. Unfortunately it doesn't last.....integrity and longevity are evidence that God is w/ a ministry....W/o integrity there cannot be God's longevity....