

# 1 Samuel 13:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people that were present with them, abode in Gibeah of Benjamin: but the Philistines encamped in Michmash.

## Analysis

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**And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people that were present with them, abode in Gibeah of Benjamin: but the Philistines encamped in Michmash.**

The positioning of Saul, Jonathan, and their small force in Gibeah while the Philistines occupied Michmash creates the geographical setting for Jonathan's heroic action in chapter 14. The Hebrew *yashab* ('abode') suggests stationary, passive waiting - Saul has lost initiative after his rejection. The contrast between the paralyzed king and his bold son emerges as a major theme. Saul's spiritual failure has translated into military passivity; he awaits events rather than seeking God's guidance for action.

## Historical Context

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Geba (or Gibeah) and Michmash were separated by a deep wadi (valley) about four miles apart. The Philistine occupation of Michmash gave them strategic control of the central hill country and blocked Israelite movement. This standoff continued until Jonathan's initiative.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does spiritual failure affect our capacity for faithful action?
2. What is the difference between patient waiting on God and passive paralysis from failed leadership?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשָׂא וְל	וְיֹנָתָן	בֶּן־ו	וְהָעָם	הַנִּמְצֵא א	עִמָּם
And Saul	and Jonathan	his son	and the people	that were present	
H7586	H3129	H1121	H5971	H4672	H5973

וְיָשְׁבוּ יָם	בְּגִבְעָה	בְּנֵימִן	וּפְלִשְׁתִּים יָם	חָנּוּ ו
with them abode	in Gibeah	of Benjamin	but the Philistines	encamped
H3427	H1387	H1144	H6430	H2583

בְּמִיכַשׁ:  
in Michmash  
H4363