

# 1 Samuel 13:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.

## Analysis

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**And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.**

The chapter concludes with Philistine forces at 'the passage of Michmash,' controlling the strategic pass that Jonathan will use for his assault in chapter 14. The Hebrew *mattsab* ('garrison' or 'outpost') indicates an advance position designed to prevent Israelite movement. This geographical detail sets up the narrative tension: the enemy controls the heights, Israel cowers below, and only divine intervention can change the situation. The stage is set for faith's triumph over fear.

## Historical Context

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The pass of Michmash was a narrow, steep-sided gorge that provided the main route through the central highlands. Control of this pass gave the Philistines strategic dominance over the entire region. The terrain features - two rocky crags flanking the pass - would figure prominently in Jonathan's daring attack.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

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