

1 SAMUEL CHAPTER 11

¹ And it came to pass about a month after this, that Nahash the Ammonite went up, and encamped against Jabesh Gilead. And all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash the Ammonite, "Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you." ² And Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "On these terms will I make a covenant with you, that I will put out all of your right eyes, and I will lay a reproach upon Israel." ³ And the men of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days, and we will send messengers into all the coasts of Israel. If there should be no one to deliver us, we will come out to you."

⁴ And the messengers came to Saul at Gibeah, and they spoke the words into the ears of the people; and all the people lifted up their voice, and wept. ⁵ And behold, Saul came out of the field after the early morning. And Saul said, "Why do the people weep?" And they told him the words of the men of Jabesh. ⁶ And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled against them. ⁷ And he took two cows, and cut them in pieces, and sent them into all the coasts of Israel by the hand of messengers, saying, "Whosoever does not come forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall they do to his oxen." And a transport from the Lord came upon the people of Israel, and they came out to battle as one man. ⁸ And he reviewed them at Bezek in Bama, every man of Israel six hundred thousand, and the men of Judah seventy thousand. ⁹ And he said to the messengers that came, "Thus shall you say to the men of Jabesh: 'Tomorrow you shall have deliverance when the sun is hot.'" And the messengers came to the city, and told the men of Jabesh, and they rejoiced. ¹⁰ And the men of Jabesh said to Nahash the Ammonite, "Tomorrow we will come forth to you, and you shall do to us what seems good in your sight." ¹¹ So it was, on the next day, that Saul divided the people into three companies, and they went into the midst of the camp in the morning watch, and they killed the children of Ammon until the heat of the day. And it came to pass that those who were left were scattered, and there was not left two together among them.

¹² And the people said to Samuel, "Who has said that Saul shall not reign over us? Give up the men, and we will put them to death." ¹³ And Saul said, "No man shall die this day, for today the Lord has brought about deliverance in Israel." ¹⁴ And Samuel spoke to the people, saying, "Let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there." ¹⁵ And all the people went to Gilgal, and Samuel anointed Saul there to be king before the Lord in Gilgal, and there he offered grain offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. And Samuel and all Israel rejoiced exceedingly.