

SAUL TO THE RESCUE!

(THE AMMONITES ATTACK JABESH GILEAD)

Cast:

Narrator	Saul
Servant	A spokesman for Jabesh Gilead
Nahash, the Ammonite king	A spokesman for Israel
Messenger	Samuel

NARRATOR: Nahash the Ammonite king went up and besieged the city of Jabesh Gilead. The men of the city tried to make a treaty with Nahash.

Spokesman for Jabesh Gilead: Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you.

NAHASH: On this condition will I make a treaty with you-- that I gouge out everyone's right eyes, and thus put disgrace upon Israel.

SPOKESMAN FOR JABESH GILEAD: Give us seven days that we might send messengers through all the territory of Israel. If there is no one to save us, then we will give up and serve you.

NARRATOR: Now Saul was coming in from plowing his fields and he heard the people of his town raising a cry of despair.

SAUL: What ails the people that they are weeping?

SERVANT: A messenger has come to town and told everyone that Nahash the Ammonite is threatening to cut out the right eye of everyone in the city of Jabesh Gilead.

NARRATOR: Then the spirit of God came upon Saul and his anger was kindled against Nahash. He took some oxen and killed them then cut them into pieces and sent messengers to carry those pieces into all the tribes of Israel and announce in every town:

SAUL: Whoever does not come out and follow Saul and Samuel-- this shall be done to his oxen!

NARRATOR: Then the dread of the Lord fell upon the people and they all came out to help Saul. 30,000 men came from the tribe of Judah, and 300,000 men came from the other 11 tribes. Saul sent a messenger to the city of Jabesh Gilead.

MESSENGER: Saul says that by the time the sun is hot tomorrow, you will be delivered from the Ammonites.

NARRATOR: The people of Jabesh Gilead rejoiced that help was on the way, but they did not want Nahash to know that an army was coming. They wanted Nahash to be caught by surprise. So they pretended that they had not found any help. They sent this message to Nahash:

SPOKESMAN FOR JABESH GILEAD: Tomorrow we will give ourselves up to you. You may do to us whatever seems right to you.

NARRATOR: The next day, Saul organized his army into three companies and they fell upon the Ammonites and fought them all morning. They won a huge victory and the very few Ammonites soldiers who survived were scattered so that not even two of them were left together. Then the people said to Samuel:

SPOKESMAN FOR ISRAEL: Who were those people who didn't think Saul would make a good king? Bring them there and let's kill them!

SAUL: No! No one shall be put to death today, for today the Lord has delivered Israel. It is a day to rejoice!

SAMUEL: Come, let us go to Gilgal and renew the covenant of kingship.

NARRATOR: So all the people went to Gilgal and officially crowned Saul king of Israel. They sacrificed peace offerings before the Lord and rejoiced greatly in what God had done.