1 Samuel 13:5-8

5 Now the Philistines assembled to fight with Israel, 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen, and people like the sand which is on the seashore in abundance; and they came up and camped in Michmash, east of Beth-aven. 6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait (for the people were hard-pressed), then the people hid themselves in caves, in thickets, in cliffs, in cellars, and in pits.

7 Also some of the Hebrews crossed the Jordan into the land of Gad and Gilead. But as for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. 8 Now he waited seven days, according to the appointed time set by Samuel, but Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattering from him.

King Saul finds himself in an extremely difficult situation facing a superior enemy. He is up against the wall and hard pressed.
1 Samuel 13:9-10
So Saul said, "Bring to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. 10 As soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him and to greet him.

When we face difficult situations our genuine character often comes to the surface. Will we obey God and wait patiently for His solution to materialize or will we forge ahead in our own way.

3 – THE SEVERITY OF GOD’S RESPONSE

13 Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, for now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 "But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

1 Samuel 13:11-14
11 But Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the appointed days, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash, 12 therefore I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not asked the favor of the LORD.' So I forced myself and offered the burnt offering."

The kingdom is removed permanently from Saul’s family. His descendents will not sit on the throne.

This punishment is appropriate because Saul usurped the role of the priest to lead people to God and showed disregard for the appropriate way to approach God.
Examples that show – God does not allow us to make our own way into His presence:

- Adam and Eve – Genesis 3:7, 21
- Cain and Abel – Genesis 4:4, 5
- Nadab and Abihu – Leviticus 10:1-3

4 – God’s Solution to Our Greatest Problem

Jesus is the Way – John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Hebrews 5:5-10

So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"; just as He says also in another passage, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, 10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.