

1 Samuel 31:1-13 **Israel army defeated – Saul & Sons died**

The Tragic End of Saul and His Sons(1 Chronicles 10)

¹ Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. ² Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons. ³ The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was severely wounded by the archers.

⁴ Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and thrust me through and abuse me."

But his armorbearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it.

⁵ And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword, and died with him. ⁶ So Saul, his three sons, his armorbearer, and all his men died together that same day.

⁷ And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley, and those who were on the other side of the Jordan, saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

⁸ So it happened the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. ⁹ And they cut off his head and stripped off his armor, and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines, to proclaim it in the temple of their idols and among the people. ¹⁰ Then they put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan.

Cremation and burial of Saul and his sons

¹¹ Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, ¹² all the valiant men arose and traveled all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth Shan; and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. ¹³ Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

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Facts Revealed:

David set an example of waiting on the Lord

✧ Yahweh had delivered Saul into David's hands twice and David refused to kill him because David would not lift his hand against one the Lord had anointed. Instead, David said, "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord." [1 Samuel 24:6, 26:11]

and again, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?" [1 Samuel 26:9]

✧ David's reasoning was, "As the Lord lives, the **Lord shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish.** [1 Samuel 26:10-11]

✧ Samuel had said to Saul, "Moreover the **Lord will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines.** And **tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.**" [1 Samuel 28:19]

The Tragic End of Saul and His Sons [1 Samuel 31:1-10, 1 Chronicles 10:1-14]

✧ The battle was joined and Israel fled before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

✧ The Philistines killed the sons of Saul, and Saul was severely wounded by the archers.

- ✧ Saul fell on his own sword and died so the Philistines could not kill him.
- ✧ Israelites fled from their cities and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.
- ✧ The next day the Philistines came for the spoils of war and found Saul and his three sons dead on Mount Gilboa. They cut off Saul's head, stripped off his armor, and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim their great victory in the temple of their Idols and among the people. Saul's armor was put in the temple of the Ashtoreths. The bodies of Saul and his sons were fastened to the wall of Beth Shan.

Cremation and burial of Saul and his sons

- ✧ Upon hearing the outcome of the battle, the men of Jabesh Gilead came by night, took down the bodies of Saul and his sons, and carried them to Jabesh where they cremated the bodies and buried the bones under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh. Then they fasted seven days.