

The Death of Saul

1 Samuel 31

1 Chronicles 10

2 Samuel 1

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The Philistines attacked, and the men of Israel fled from them. Many were slaughtered on the slopes of Mount Gilboa. Three of Saul's sons were killed, including Jonathan. Philistine archers critically wounded Saul. He commanded his armor bearer, "Kill me. If these pagan Philistines find me alive they will torture me."

But the armor bearer was afraid and wouldn't do it. So Saul took his own sword and fell on it. Then his armor bearer followed suit. So Saul, his three sons, his armor bearer, and his men all died together that same day.

The next day the Philistines found the bodies of Saul and his three sons. They cut off Saul's head and displayed it in the temple of their gods, and they hung his body on the wall of the city.

Mighty warriors from Jabesh Gilead went and took the bodies of Saul and his sons down from the wall and carried them to Jabesh. They burned the bodies, buried the bones, and fasted in mourning for seven days.

Meanwhile, a man went to David at Ziklag to report the death of Saul and Jonathan. He claimed, "I came upon the king, wounded and leaning on his spear. He begged me, 'Put me out of my misery. I'm in terrible pain and I want to die.' So I killed him." He was trying to curry favor. But David had the man executed for killing the Lord's anointed one. He and his men mourned for Saul and Jonathan and for all the Israelite soldiers who had died that day.

Then David sang a lament for Saul and Jonathan, "Your glory, O Israel, lies slain. How the mighty have fallen! In life they were loved. And even in death they were not parted."