

## 1 Samuel 31:1-13- "Saul's Final Decision"

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### Samuel 31:1-13

31 Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. 2 And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul. 3 The battle pressed hard against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was badly wounded by the archers. 4 Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and mistreat me." But his armor-bearer would not, for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it. 5 And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell upon his sword and died with him. 6 Thus Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, and all his men, on the same day together. 7 And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley and those beyond the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities and fled. And the Philistines came and lived in them. 8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. 9 So they cut off his head and stripped off his armor and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines, to carry the good news to the house of their idols and to the people. 10 They put his armor in the temple of Ashtaroth, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan. 11 But when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, 12 all the valiant men arose and went 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 And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh and fasted seven days.

"Israel's armed might was broken, her leadership was slain, her land occupied, and her religion disgraced." - Richard Phillips

Sin is costly to those around us (31:2-3)

Romans 8:12, 16, 21

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions... 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?... But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death."

The death of the proud king (31:4-6)

"As we come to the end of Saul's life, we can reflect on his hard-hearted impenitence as the primary theme of his life... to the end of Saul's life, it is not hard to see that the dominant

theme...was his hard-hearted impenitence. The prophet Isaiah lists repentance coupled with faith as the key to receiving God's blessing- (Isaiah 55:7)- sadly, Saul's life was a bitter record of God's way forsaken and God's pardon forfeited by his refusal to repent. Saul became a victim and slave of his own causeless hate" - Richard Phillips

1 Samuel 2:9-11

“It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the Lord will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; the Lord will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

Dishonoring Saul’s Body (31:7-10)

Psalm 146:3-4

“Trust not in princes, in the son of a man in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth. On that very day his plans perish.”

A Glimmer of Hope (31:11-13)

Psalm 146-

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish. Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!”

**The true king came and even death could not stop him.**