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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

First Samuel, ungodly leadership, Philistines, Mount Gilboa, Gideon, Saul's death, Israel's defeat, Jezreel Valley, Beth Shean, idolatry, repentance, spiritual problem, God's authority, Messiah's resurrection, biblical faith.

SPEAKERS

Baruch Korman, Intro Voice



Intro Voice 00:03

Shalom, and welcome to Via Haftah Israel, a Hebrew phrase which means, 'You shall love Israel. We hope you'll stay with us for the next 30 minutes as our teacher, Dr. Baruch, shares his expository teaching from the Bible. Dr. Baruch is the senior lecturer at the Zara Avraham Institute, based in Israel, although all courses are taught in Hebrew at the institute, Dr. Baruch is pleased to share this weekly address in English. To find out more about our work in Israel, please visit us on the web@loveisrael.org That's one word, loveisrael.org Now here's Baruch with today's lesson. It is very

significant that the book of First Samuel ends with the death of Sheol, the king of Israel, and his sons, and not only this, we also see in this last chapter that the nation of Israel was thoroughly defeated by the Philistines. What is the message? Very simply, when we achieve what we want to achieve, it leads to failure. It is only when we submit to God's will, when we recognize His purposes, when we are committed to His priorities, then and only then can we expect victory, and through that victory there will also be a restoration of what the enemy has taken from the people of God, but when we are under the leadership of an ungodly man, one who is not interested in God's will, one who is not interested in the word of God, expect failure, expect shame, and expect defeat. Well, with that said, take out your Bible and look with me to First Samuel and chapter 31 the book of First Samuel and chapter 31 again. the main thing that's being taught here is indeed the failure that came from ungodly leadership, that is from Shaul. Let's begin. Look with me, if you would, to verse one, where it says, and the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel. They fled before the Philistines, and not only did they flee, but notice something else. We have a very important word now. It's the same word that relates to something that is empty, for example, we use that when we talk about outer space in modern Hebrew, and it speaks of something that is not contained, and when we look at this word, it's the word Halalim, which means someone who is dead, their soul has departed from them, and this is how Israel is being described in their defeat by means of the Philistines, and notice it says here, and there fell the dead bodies where at Mount Gaboa. Now Gaboa is a significant place, it's there at a unique location, we see that Mount Gaboa is not very far from the Jezreel Valley, and we see when we go back to the time of the judges, there was a judge by the name of Gedon, or Gideon in English, and it was in that same location that Gideon brought about victory for the children of Israel. Why? Well, Gideon was not a perfect man, none of us are, but he was someone who relied upon God, someone who trusted in the truth of God, someone who listened to God and implemented the truth of God into his life, and when we do that, things are going to be very different for the people of God. Let's press on to verse two now. Again, I want to translate this very literally, because we have a word here, which means, and the Philistines clung to Shaul and his sons, meaning they were pursuing after them. They did not want any separation between the leadership of Israel, Shaul and his sons, and themselves. And what did the Philistines do? Keep reading, middle of verse two, where it says, and the Philistines struck Yonatan and Avi Nadav and Malkishua, the sons of Shoel, and this word for striking is usually in the scripture a word that relates to striking. Dead, it's a word for a blow, a serious blow again that normally leads to death, as in the context here. Look now to verse three. In verse three, the focus is no longer on Sheol, nor his sons, because they have died. Notice what it says, and the war, and then we have a very important term, it means to become heavy, so the battle became very, very intense. In other words, and we see here against Shoal, and it says that the archers, they found him, this men of a bow, meaning bow and arrows, and notice what it says, and the archers wounded, and the next word, meode, meaning they wounded him excessively in a very, very strong manner. Verse four, and Shaul said to the one who bore his vessels. Now I realize that many Bibles will say armor, but it's not the word referring to simply armor, that would be a different Hebrew word. It simply means the one who bore his vessels. And what did he ask?

He says, you take out your sword and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised ones come and they thrust me through and also abuse me, but notice what it says, the one who bore his vessels, did not want, because he was very afraid, and therefore notice what Saul did. End of verse four. And Saul took the sword, and he fell upon it. So, in the end, what happened? Saul knew that it wasn't going to end well, and therefore he committed suicide. He fell upon his own sword. Now, some would say, and I wouldn't disagree with this, that even though it's committing suicide, it's doing so in an honorable way, I need to be very careful. Suicide is never honorable, but when one would fall upon his sword, that was a way of saying that he wanted to end his life in an honorable way, so the enemy would not have any victory, and the enemy would not have an opportunity to do what Shaul was concerned about, abuse him and shame him and torture him. Well, let's move on to verse verse five, and the one who bore his vessels feared because Shaul had died, and what did this one do? It says, and also he fell upon his sword, and he died with him, meaning he died with Shaul. Verse six, Shaul died, and his three sons and the one who bore his vessels, also all these men on that day together, so we see here that it's being emphasized, all his men, whose men we're talking about those who were loyal to Shaul, all of his men, and what does it say here? What is the message? Well, remember, I said it was very important that we see that First Samuel, this book concluded with the death of Shaul as king, his three sons, and all those who were with them, all those, in other words, who were loyal to him, they simply supported an ungodly leader. And now we see God's vengeance upon Sheol, his sons, and all those who were loyal to Shoel. Why? Because they had chosen poorly, they had made an unwise decision because they were loyal to Shaul rather than being anointed to the true anointed one of Israel. And who am I speaking about? David. Well, let's press on. Look, if you would, to verse seven, the and the men of Israel saw the ones who were on the other side of the valley, and those who were on the other side of the Jordan, that the men of Israel had fled. Four Shaul and his sons, they were dead, and what did they do? It says here that they left the cities, and they fled, and they came to, and the Philistines came, and they dwelt in them. So, with this defeat, what happened. Well, we see here that the men of Israel, seeing what had happened, this defeat of the armies of Israel. What took place? The people left the land that God had given to the children of Israel that they had inherited in the days of Joshua, and now they had abandoned that, and what happened? Well, now the Philistines, the word of God tells us that the Philistines came in, and now they were dwelling in that land. It was almost a reversal of when the Canaanites were there. God brought them out. God executed these, these people from being in the land. And now the Philistines were there again, over and over. What is being said? What is being said is this great defeat that the children of Israel had suffered. They were no longer inhabiting the land. They fled in fear, and here's the message: they were fearing man, meaning the Philistines, rather than fearing God. When we fear God, we can expect that God will move in our circumstances, that God will act in our behalf, but God must be the priority of our life. Let's move on to verse eight. And it came about on the next days that the Philistines came, and what did they do? It says here that they stripped the dead bodies, and they found Shaul and his three sons, who are falling, and it's in the present, and we'll talk about that in a moment on Mount Giboa.

Now, when we translate it, most Bibles will put it into the past, because we've already been told that they're dead, they have died there, they have fallen, but when we look at it in the original language, it is in the present tense, and why is that important? Because when we come across the present tense in Hebrew, Biblical Hebrew, and I realize I'll repeat myself, some people will call this a participle, that's fine, it's the same tense, it's the same structure, it's simply that Christianity, Christianity calls it by a participle, where rabbinical scholars call it the present tense, so two different terms, but here's what we need to see. Whenever that structure, that tense is used, regardless of what it's called, it is always to emphasize something, and what's being emphasized here, that Sheol and his sons, that they are falling, meaning that they were put to death at this location. And then it says, look at verse nine, and what did they do? The Philistines, it says, and they cut off his head, and they, they stripped off his vessels, meaning they took his various things that was with him, and they sent it throughout the land of the Philistines, all about why to proclaim in their house of their idols and with their people, so they wanted to use this shameful defeat of the children of Israel in order to do something to worship and to proclaim victory, and they wanted to do that within the context of idolatry. Now the children of Israel, they had failed miserably. Why? Because they did not trust in God. They did not trust in the selection of God, God's man to be king, but they were making decisions how they saw them, what was right and what was expedient in their own eyes. And be assured of something whenever you make decisions based upon what seems best for you, you will be always hear that you will always be deceived. You will always make foolish decisions that are going to bring about, as we see in this battle, it's going to bring about shame and discouragement. Christ, and we're going to see that those who are idol worshipers, they're going to have a victory rather than the people of God. Keep reading, look, if you would again to the next verse, verse 10, and they put his vessel in the house of Asteroth, that is a pagan location having to do with idolatry and his body. They did something, they hung upon the wall of Beth Shayan. Now Betsy on was a very significant city in the upper Galilee, very close to the Jordan River Valley Road. What connects the north of Israel to the Jerusalem area? Many times we see in the Gospels when Messiah and his disciples would travel, they would travel that Jordan River Valley Road to go from the Galilee to Jerusalem, and now what is being taught in this passage. Look again at verse 10, it says, and they put his vessels in the house of this idolatry, this idolatrous temple, and his body they hung on the wall of Beth Shean. Now Beth Shean is very close to the same location what we've been talking about, the Jezreel Valley. Now I want to talk a little bit about that term in Hebrew, Israel, not Israel, but Israel or Jezreel. It is an important term. Why? Well, when we look at that term, we see something. If we look at it, Jezreel, what does it mean? Every place, every name, whether it's a person or a location or a city, Hebrew always has a message, and the term Israel means basically he will plant or he will place a seed. Now, why is that important? Because God promises to do something, and by the way, we are seeing prophecy being fulfilled today. Why? And it points to the end times. Now, are we in the end times? Not yet, but we are moving closer to it. And why do I say that? Simply because God is doing something as He has promised. This word 'to plant' has to do with God planting once again, as he said, the children of Israel, the Jewish people, back in the land, and that is a necessary requirement in order that we move forward and forward into a kingdom experience.

So, in the same way that the children of Israel had to be in the land for Messiah to come the first time. There's also a requirement, we can say it stronger, a necessity for the Jewish people to be back in the land, so that Messiah can come a second time. And what is he going to do? Well, he is going to restore what the enemy has done here. When we look at the children of Israel, they were fearful, they were defeated, they chose unwisely, they put their hope in a pagan man. And who am I speaking about? Sheol. And why you say, well, why is he pagan? What did he do a few weeks ago? He went to a sorceress. He went to a medium in order to conjure up in his mind the spirit of Samuel. Well, this is not something that a man of God would do. So Sheol is a disgraceful individual. He did not walk under the authority of the word of God, and we need to always make scripture relevant for us. We need to ask ourselves a very important question, and that's this: Am I demonstrating that I'm under the authority of God? How do I do that? Very simply, you do it by demonstrating your commitment and your passion for the word of God. It is when you demonstrate a reverence for the word of God that you are recognizing the authority of God over you. That's what we're called to do. Well, let's move on. Look, if you would to the next verse, verse 11, where it says, and the residents of Yevesh Gilead, they heard concerning him, meaning they heard concerning the death of Shaul and his sons. And it says that they heard these men of Yevesh Gilad, what the Philistines had done to Shaul, and what did they do? Notice this: all the valiant men, that is, men with faith, they got up and they went all night. Now this shows an urgency. This shows that they were not at peace at what had happened. They went to respond to what they had heard concerning the death of Sheol, the king of Israel, and his three sons, and the defeat of the children of Israel. How they fled in disgrace. So again, look at verse 12, and all the valiant men got up, and they went all night, a sense of urgency, and they took the body of Sheol and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth Shean, and they brought to Yavesh, that is their city, and what did they do? They burned them there. So they took their bodies and they burned them there. Why it says here, and they took the bones, their bones, and buried them underneath a tree. Now this is a unique type of tree, and they did so, burying them underneath that tree in Yevesh, and it says something else. It says, and they fasted for seven days. Now that says something about their commitment. They were so grieved about Sheol's death, even though he was an ungodly man, a man that was not in God's will, but nevertheless they respected the position of King, and what did they do? The word of God is very clear. It says here that they fasted for seven days. Now, this fasting is related, of course, to prayer, but it's also related to something else. It's related to repentance. It's related to humility. It is saying that there's a change that's required. We fast because we want change in our life, change in our circumstances, and therefore the men of Yevesh Gilead, they fasted for seven days. Why? Because they did not like what was going on, that the children of Israel, they were defeated, they were shamed, they fled in fear, even though that the children of Israel should be thought of as the armies of the Lord, but here at this time under the wrongful leadership of Sheol, the children of Israel experienced shame, defeat, and failure, and again they lost. What do I mean that they lost? Well, remember what we talked about, instead of remaining in the land, so many of the inhabitants of the cities, what did they do?

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They fled in fear, and that allowed the Philistines to come in and to settle the land, something that is not according to the will of God, now before we conclude, I want us to make this, as I said, a practical passage of scripture. We need to ask ourselves, God, what's going on in my life? Am I demonstrating faith? Am I showing others that I am under your authority, are you moving in my circumstances, or am I also removed from you and these covenantal promises, and therefore, instead of experiencing victory and instead of overcoming, am I being overcome by the enemy, that's what's happening to many believers today. We are not living a God-pleasing life, but what's happening, we are failing God, and the enemy is bringing about shame, defeat, failure, and we see ourselves far away from the people that God wants us to be, and from doing the things that God has equipped us to do. God, if we're in His will, He will provide everything that we need, everything that is required in order for us to. Successfully carry out his plans, his purposes, and his priorities. If that's not the reality for you, understand there is a spiritual problem. And unfortunately, today there is among many believers a spiritual problem. We're not trusting in God, we're not depending upon him, we're not relying upon him for and hear this: all things, the worst thing that can happen to a believer is when we begin to trust our perspective, how we see things, what we want, and we believe that what the desires of the flesh that we have, what we want is the will of God. You know what that means. It means that you have been utterly deceived. Unfortunately, today there are many people. In fact, there's many Bible teachers that they are popular because they tell the people what they want to hear rather than simply relying upon the word of God, showing a relevant, a reverence for scripture. Every true Bible teacher is going to demonstrate and convey a reverence for the word of God, and to the degree that we revere the word of God. This is also going to relate to whether we submit to the authority of God. This is what we're called to do. God's authority is a wonderful authority. So let's not doubt, let's not fear the enemy, but let us have a boldness. So many times when we look at the apostles in the New Testament, we see that they were bold in the visuals. They did not let society, they did not let governments influence them. They decided that they were going to walk in submissiveness to the truth of God, regardless of what was going to happen to them. Why I believe that they knew a very important principle, and what is that? Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. So, if we die, if we lose this life, that's no problem, because one of the things that we believed believing is the resurrection of the dead, and we also know that the Bible says to have a God-pleasing faith, a biblical faith, we need to know that God has raised Messiah from the dead, so that what so that sin and death has no victory. Who has victory? God has victory, and we'll share in that victory when we are committed to the things of our Lord.

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Well, we hope you will benefit from today's message and share it with others. Please plan to join us each week at this time and on this channel for our broadcast of loveisrael.org Again, to find out more about us, please visit our website, loveisrael.org There you will find articles and numerous other lectures by Baruch. These teachings are in video form. May download them or watch them in streaming video. Until next week. May the Lord bless you in our Messiah Yeshua, that is Jesus, as you walk with Him. Shalom from Israel.