

**March 8, 2026**

**All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James**

God is Faithful, man is not.

***1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

***Psalm 32:5 Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not hide my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah***

***Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.***

If Saul would have abided in God and walked in the way he should have gone the story would be quite different.

David will not be perfect, but he will give his heart to God. He will fail from time to time but will repent of his sins. An example to us who are Born Again. We fail, but we must always repent with a contrite heart. God says He is faithful to forgive if we repent. He will then clean us of all unrighteousness.

Saul's refusal to repent leads he and his family to destruction. We do not know his final outcome beyond what the Bible says.

Samuel when he told Saul that he would die on a certain day also told Saul he would be with him (Samuel) on that day. It is up to

God in all our lives. He has given us a course to walk after receiving Salvation through the Blood of the Lamb by Jesus, His Son. Our walk must be for righteousness that is what we must do, not for Salvations sake but for righteousness's sake for the Glory of God.

This battle started according to 1 Samuel:

*1 Samuel 29 **1**Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek: and the Israelites pitched by a fountain which is in Jezreel.*

## **1 Samuel 31**

### **Saul's Overthrow and Death**

**(2 Samuel 1:1-16; 1 Chronicles 10:1-6)**

**1Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa.**

**<https://ibiblemaps.com/saul-killed-by-philistines-at-mt-gilboa/>**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJtf8g7JW7E>

What would you do if you looked across a valley only a few miles wide and saw an army of 10's of thousands of able military men. You knew that God had said that you and your sons were going to die the following day. You knew you had violated God's Law by seeking a spirit medium to ask Samuel what you should do because God would not talk to you. Why not just withdraw and live to fight another day. The problem was the valley itself. It was the most productive farmland in Israel at that time. Without that food supply your people would starve. So, you had to fight against all odds of victory.

Your army in disarray, falling at the hands of the Philistines and no help from God to come. All because of your disloyalty to God.

**2**And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons. **3**And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers.

As the Israeli army is fleeing from the level farm ground of the valley, the King is hit with a least one arrow. Now desperate to reach some kind of safety the army is running toward Mt Gilboa and some type of protection or shielding from the pursuing Philistines.

The last thing Saul king of Israel wanted was to be found alive by the pursuing Philistines. I don't think we can conceive of the brutality of this time towards human beings from either side. The Philistines were not opposed to skinning people alive. Keeping kings alive for torture in-front of their hometown folks. It was all to bring fear into the hearts of your advisories.

We see in the middle east the Islamists beheading people even today in order to bring fear to others. Saul did not want to experience the pain that being captured would surely bring.

**4**Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.

As a loyal member of the military, you would never consider killing your commander let alone the King. Saul put his armor bearer in an untenable position of striking down the king. When the armor bearer could not bring himself to do so, the king killed himself rather than face the evil the Philistines would put upon him.

**5And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.**

The armor bearer was the last line of defense for the King. This person not only carried the King's armor but was to defend the King with his life. Now the armor bearer sees he has failed to save his King; he does not want to endure what the king feared as well.

**6So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.**

***Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.***

We are told the entire Israeli Army is killed. We know that there are some Israelis that live to fight another day, they would be young men too young to fight spread around Israel and then we have David and his army. The people of Israel fled their homes and villages rather than to be captured and either killed or enslaved.

## **The Philistines Possess the Towns** **(1 Chronicles 10:7-10)**

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

The promised land in disarray all due to a rebellious heart against God. Israel today is in grave danger of the same national rebellion against God. They suffered and will again suffer, until they turn their hearts to God and to His Son Jesus Christ.

**8And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa.**

Of course, the emphasis of this verse is the body of Saul and his sons are found. But don't overlook the part where the Philistines came to strip the bodies. Another atrocity in wars of this age and still occur in many 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries in the world today.

**9And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish *it in* the house of their idols, and among the people. 10And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan.**

The Armor of the King was easily identified and would be a symbol of the falling of Israel. So, they sent his armor around the

towns of the Philistines so they could see and rejoice in their victory. Putting the armor in the house of their idols would point at the power of their idols over the God of Israel.

The final abuse was to nail the dead bodies of Saul and his sons on the wall of Bethshan.

*“Beth-shan was a strategic city located in the Jordan Valley, controlling the routes between the Jezreel Valley and the Jordan River. Archaeological excavations have revealed that Beth-shan was a significant urban center during the time of Saul.” Berean Study Bible guide.*

That very thing will be used by the anti-Christ when the Anti-Christ enters the third temple, going into the Holy of Holies and declares himself to be God. Evil, Satan, loves to desecrate the things of God including Believers. We are at war, it is a Spiritual War, but no less of a war that Saul fought and was defeated. As Believers we have Salvation, but what is it that God wants from us now that our Salvation is settled. OBEDIENCE, to His Word.

### **Jabesh-Gilead's Tribute to Saul** **[\(1 Chronicles 10:11-14\)](#)**

**11And when the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul;**

Jabeshgilead was found east of the Jordan River in the territory of Gilead. Saul had saved them from the Amorites as we learned in

1 Samuel 11. In that event the Amorites had given the men of Jabeshgilead the choice of death of taking out each of their eyes. Saul rescued them and drove off the Amorites.

**12All the valiant men arose, and went all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Bethshan, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there. 13And they took their bones, and buried *them* under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.**

Jabeshgilead was associated with the tribe of Benjamin.

Burning bodies was not a norm within the Jewish culture.

However, conjecture is that this may have been done to remove the bodies from being again taken by the Philistines for further degrading. It was done out of obvious respect for the King who had saved them.

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