



Life of

DAVID

The Making of a King

The Death of a King
1 Samuel 31 & 2 Samuel 1
Lesson 11

Background Information

Saul's days were numbered. Saul had spent so much of his time pursuing David that he didn't guard against his real enemies. Saul had won mighty victories over the Philistines in the past, but the Lord was no longer with him. The enemy finally conquered Saul and his army. Saul and three of his sons lay slain on the hills of Gilboa. David, who's heart beat with God's was not overjoyed, as one might expect by the news of Saul's death, but rather saddened.

David honored Saul and Jonathan in song, *The Song of the Bow*, for all of Israel to remember their glorious deeds. The death of one king would mean the rise of another. A long and painful chapter had closed on David's life and a new one was about to open.

Treasures of the Heart

*I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind,
Even to give every man according to his ways,
According to the fruit of his doings.*

Jeremiah 17:10



What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

1 Samuel 31:1-13

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.

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.

2 Samuel 1:1-10

1 Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had stayed two days in Ziklag, 2 on the third day, behold, it happened that a man came from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. So it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the ground and prostrated himself. 3 And David said to him, "Where have you come from?" So he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel."

4 Then David said to him, "How did the matter go? Please tell me." And he answered, "The people have fled from the battle, many of the people are fallen and dead, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also."

5 So David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead?"

6 Then the young man who told him said, "As I happened by chance to be on Mount Gilboa, there was Saul, leaning on his spear; and indeed the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him. 7 Now when he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' 8 And he said to me, 'Who are you?' So I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' 9 He said to me again, 'Please stand over me and kill me, for anguish has come upon me, but my life still remains in me.' 10 So I stood over him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord."



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2 Samuel 1:11-16

11 Therefore David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. 12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

13 Then David said to the young man who told him, "Where are you from?" And he answered, "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite."

14 So David said to him, "How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" 15 Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go near, and execute him!" And he struck him so that he died. 16 So David said to him, "Your blood is on your own head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the Lord's anointed.'"



2 Samuel 1:17-27

17 Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son, 18 and he told them to teach the children of Judah the Song of the Bow; indeed it is written in the Book of Jasher:

19 "The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places!How the mighty have fallen! 20 Tell it not in Gath,Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon — Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice,Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

21 "O mountains of Gilboa,Let there be no dew nor rain upon you,Nor fields of offerings.For the shield of the mighty is cast away there!The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil. 22 From the blood of the slain,From the fat of the mighty,The bow of Jonathan did not turn back,And the sword of Saul did not return empty.

23 "Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives,And in their death they were not divided;They were swifter than eagles,They were stronger than lions.

24 "O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury;Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

25 "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!Jonathan was slain in your high places. 26 I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;You have been very pleasant to me;Your love to me was wonderful,Surpassing the love of women. 27 "How the mighty have fallen,And the weapons of war perished!"





What does it mean?

What lesson can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, "What was the intended meaning of the original author?"** Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

1 Samuel 31:1-13 _____

2 Samuel 1:1-10 _____

2 Samuel 1:11-16 _____

2 Samuel 1:17-27 _____



How can I apply it?

Ask yourself, "What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?" How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 words or less)

1 Samuel 31:1-13 _____

2 Samuel 1:1-10 _____

2 Samuel 1:11-16 _____

2 Samuel 1:17-27 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



Understanding the Heart . . .

See if you can discover the **heart attitude** of those in the story. What emotions are they dealing with? What is God teaching them? How do they respond? How should they respond?

The Heart of David:

The Heart of the people:

The Heart of God:

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.



Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

1 Samuel 31:1-13 _____

2 Samuel 1:1-10 _____

2 Samuel 1:11-16 _____

2 Samuel 1:17-27 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth . . .

His death by his own hand climaxed a life
which had been led in independence of God.

Bible Knowledge Commentary

