



I Samuel

Part #24 –
Saul's Final Hour

How are the mighty fallen?

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Introduction

When one brought news from the warfront that the adversary of David was slain in battle, what was David's response?

If your adversary is taken in battle, would you rejoice?



Introduction

Key Scriptures

- Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. – 1 Samuel 31:1
- And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons. – 1 Samuel 31:2
- So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together. – 1 Samuel 31:6
- And 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. – 1 Samuel 31:7



Introduction – Cont'd

Key Scriptures

- And when the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul; 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 Bethshan, and came to Jabesh, and burnt them there. And they took their bones, and buried *them* under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days. – 1 Samuel 31:11-13
- And he said unto me, Who *art* thou? And I answered him, I *am* an Amalekite. – 2 Samuel 1:8
- Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that *were* with him: – 2 Samuel 1:11



Keys

How are the mighty fallen?

- Saul and his sons
- Mountains of Gilboa
- Amalekite's news from the battlefield
- Integrity of David
- There is a price for the prize and there is a prize for the price
- Lamentation of David
- Wrong choices and wrong sides



In this lesson

How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle!

- Crooked taken
- Caution - Choice right!
- Cowardice, Courage and Carelessness
- Cries and songs from David



Crocked taken

David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. – 1 Samuel 26:10

How are the mighty fallen in battle!

- Saul's reign in review
- As a Father,
- As a Father-in-law,
- As a Father of men,
- As a Father in Israel
- His circumstantial death



Caution - Choose right!

So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together. – 1 Samuel 31:6

They chose to align with King Saul

- Doeg – 1 Samuel 22:9, 18; Psalms 52
- Jonathan and his brethren
- The men of Israel – General Abner escapes?



Cowardice, Courage and Carelessness

So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together. – 1 Samuel 31:6

Cowardice

- And when ... they forsook the cities, and fled – 1 Samuel 31:7
- What's there to hope for, but to abandon the ship?



Cowardice, Courage and Carelessness – Cont'd

So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together. – 1 Samuel 31:6

Courage

- And when ... men arose, and went all night.. – 1 Samuel 31:11
- Valiant men arose



Cowardice, Courage and Carelessness – Cont'd

Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him: – 2 Samuel 1:11

Carelessness

- And when ... he saw me, and called unto me.. – 2 Samuel 1:7
- We are not favoring Amalekites right now...we've just returned from Ziklag
- At the wrong place at the wrong time
- He thought he was doing David a service



Cries and songs from David

And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son : – 2 Samuel 1:17

How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle!

- David cries from King Saul and Jonathan – The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places
- David lauds and celebrates the bravery of Jonathan and King Saul
- Commands the daughters of Israel to weep for Israel's first King
- Expresses his deep love for Jonathan – A covenant of love was described as superior to than that which could be obtained from women



Mountains of Gilboa

Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil. – 2 Samuel 1:21

If you visit the Gilboa in winter or spring, the mountain's masses of wildflowers seem to belie the curse.

Come in summer, however, and you can't help but feel its effect. For aside from trees planted by the Jewish National Fund, all you find on the Gilboa are dried ferula plants, a few scattered shrubs and the hardy purple globe thistle.



Summary

David crowned king in Hebron



Next Week

Bootcamp over! – David assumes his assignment as king of Judah