

Saul's 10th Step: Ultimate Defeat and Death by Suicide

1 Samuel 31

CHAPTER 31

1 And the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain on mount Gilboa. **2** And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines smote Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons. **3** And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers came up with him; and he was much terrified by the archers. **4** Then said Saul to his armour-bearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through with it; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armour-bearer would not; for he was much afraid. So Saul took the sword and fell on it. **5** And when his armour-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise on his sword, and died with him. **6** So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armour-bearer, and all his men, that same day together. **7** And when the men of Israel that were on this side of the valley, and *they* that were on this side of the 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. **8** And it came to pass the next day, that the Philistines came to strip the slain, and they found Saul and his three sons fallen on mount Gilboa. **9** And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent *them* into the land of the Philistines round about, to announce the glad tidings in the houses of their idols, and to the people. **10** And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth; and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan. **11** And when the inhabitants of Jabesh-Gilead heard of 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 came to Jabesh, and burned them there. **13** And they took their bones, and buried them under the tamarisk at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.