

1 Chronicles 10 - Recounting Saul's Death; Philistines Desecrate Saul's Body; Jabesh-Gilead Gives Saul a Proper Burial

II. David prepares to build the temple (1 Chr 10:1—29:30)

(1) Saul's death (10:1-14)

Saul

What we know about Saul comes from 1st Samuel; only his death is recorded here.

Chronicles is all about David and his family. Saul ruled for 40 years [1051-1011 BC]; David's dynasty lasted 425 years (1011-586 BC).

Saul showed early promise: striking physical superiority, he was modest, direct, and generous. But later he declined with irreverent presumption and willful impatience i.e. the Philistines were arrayed against Israel. Saul was to wait for Samuel at Gilgal, but became impatient and violated the priest's prerogative, offering pre-arranged sacrifices to the Lord. Following shortly, Saul calls the priest to ask for guidance, but rushes men off.

In desperation, Saul seeks out a medium, who was herself alarmed by Samuel's arrival... predicting Saul's death the next day at Gilboa. A promising career ended in ignominy. "Self" will miss the best and court the worst. Wonderful opportunities, in themselves, do not crown men.

1 Chr 10 is an almost verbatim repetition of Saul's defeat and death as recorded in 1 Sam 31. The purpose here is to introduce David and show how he became king.

1 Chronicles 10

II. David prepares to build the temple (1 Chr 10:1—29:30)

(1) Saul's death (10:1-14) (Cf. 1 Sam 31:1-7)

1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel, and the men of Israel fled from the Philistines but fell fatally wounded on Mount Gilboa.

1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

1 The Philistines were fighting against Israel, and each soldier of Israel fled before the Philistines. They fell slain on the mountain of Gilboa.

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

- The emphasis in recounting Saul's death here was to bring the lessons connected with the people's demand for a king, and Saul's history, back to the minds of the readers

2 And the Philistines also overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul.

2 The Philistines closely pursued Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan, Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul.

2 The Philistines followed after Saul and after his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, Saul's sons.

2 And the Philistines followed hard after Saul, and after his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchishua, the sons of Saul.

3 The battle became severe against Saul, and the archers found him; and he was wounded by the archers.

3 The battle became heavy against Saul, and the archers overtook him; and he was wounded by the archers.

3 The heaviest fighting was against Saul, and when the archers who were shooting located Saul, he was gravely wounded by them.

3 And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him, and he was wounded of the archers.

4 Then Saul said to his armor bearer, "Draw your sword and thrust me through with it, otherwise these uncircumcised *Philistines* will come and abuse me." But his armor bearer would not, for he was very afraid. So Saul took his *own* sword and fell on it.

4 Then Saul said to his armor bearer, "Draw your sword and thrust me through with it, otherwise these uncircumcised will come and abuse me." But his armor bearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore Saul took his sword and fell on it.

4 Saul ordered his armor bearer, "Draw your sword and run me through with it, or these uncircumcised people will come and abuse me."

But his armor bearer did not want to do it because he was very frightened, so Saul took the sword and fell on it.

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

5 When his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he likewise fell on his sword and died.

5 When his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he likewise fell on his sword and died.

5 When his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died.

5 And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise on the sword, and died.

6 So Saul died with his three sons, and all *those* of his house died together.

6 Thus Saul died with his three sons, and all *those* of his house died together.

6 Therefore Saul, his three sons, and all his entire household died together.

6 So Saul died, and his three sons, and all his house died together.

- Who killed Saul?

— 2 Sam 1:1-16: an Amalekite came along after Saul was already dead

— The Amalekite knew that David and Saul had been enemies, so he went into the presence of David and took credit for the slaying of Saul

— The motive which he had was the hope that David would bestow some honor upon him and give him some reward for the slaying of Saul

— He didn't dream that David would react as he did: David executed him on his own confession, saying that he was condemned out of his own mouth

7 When all the people of Israel who were in the valley saw that they had fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities and fled; and the Philistines came and lived in them.

7 When all the men of Israel who were in the valley saw that they had fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook their cities and fled; and the Philistines came and lived in them.

7 When that part of the army of Israel that was in the valley saw that the rest of the army of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities and fled, and the Philistines came and occupied them.

7 And when all the men of Israel that were in the valley saw that they fled, and that Saul and his sons were dead, then they forsook their cities, and fled: and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

The Philistines Desecrate Saul's Body (Cf. 1 Sam 31:7-10)

8 It came about the next day, when the Philistines came to strip those killed, that they found Saul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

8 It came about the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

8 The Philistines came to strip the dead the next day, and they found Saul dead on Gilboa mountain, along with his sons.

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

9 So they stripped him and took his head and his armor and sent *messengers* around the land of the Philistines to carry the good news to their idols and to the people.

9 So they stripped him and took his head and his armor and sent *messengers* around the land of the Philistines to carry the good news to their idols and to the people.

9 They stripped him, took his head and armor, and sent messengers throughout the territory of the Philistines to report the news to their idols and to the people.

9 And when they had stripped him, they took his head, and his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to carry tidings unto their idols, and to the people.

10 They put his armor in the house of their gods and impaled his head in the house of Dagon.

10 They put his armor in the house of their gods and fastened his head in the house of Dagon.

10 Then they put Saul's armor in the temple of their gods and fastened his skull to the wall of the temple of Dagon.

10 And they put his armour in the house of their gods, and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon.

- Chronicles adds that the Philistines hung Saul's head in the temple of Dagon, but omits the fact that they hung his body on the wall of Beth Shan (Cf. 1 Sam 31:10)

The People of Jabesh-gilead Give Saul a Proper Burial (Cf. 1 Sam 31:11-13)

11 When all Jabesh-gilead heard everything that the Philistines had done to Saul,

11 When all Jabesh-gilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul,

11 When all the residents of Jabesh-gilead heard everything that the Philistines had done to Saul,

11 And when all Jabeshgilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul,

12 all the valiant men got up and took away the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons, and brought them to Jabesh; and they buried their bones under the oak in Jabesh, and fasted for seven days.

12 all the valiant men arose and took away the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons and brought them to Jabesh, and they buried their bones under the oak in Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

12 every valiant soldier got up, removed the bodies of Saul and his sons, took them to Jabesh, and buried their bones under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh. Then they fasted for seven days.

12 They arose, all the valiant men, and took away the body of Saul, and the bodies of his sons, and brought them to Jabesh, and buried their bones under the oak in Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

- Saul had once rescued these people (1 Sam 11), and this was one way they could repay him

13 So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he committed against the LORD, because of the word of the LORD which he did not keep; and also because he asked *counsel* of a medium, making inquiry *of her*,

13 So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against the LORD, because of the word of the LORD which he did not keep; and also because he asked counsel of a medium, making inquiry *of it*,

13 So Saul died for his transgressions; that is, he acted unfaithfully to the LORD by transgressing the message from the LORD (which he did not keep), by consulting a medium for advice,

13 So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;

14 and **did not inquire of the LORD**. Therefore He killed him and turned the kingdom over to David, the son of Jesse.

14 and did not inquire of the LORD. Therefore He killed him and turned the kingdom to David the son of Jesse.

14 and by not seeking counsel from the LORD, who therefore put him to death and turned the kingdom over to Jesse's son David.

14 And enquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

- "...did not inquire of the LORD" - 1 Sam 28:6 states that Saul "enquired of the LORD," but here it states that he did not

— It is likely that Saul inquired of the LORD in this situation (when the Philistines were assembled, Cf. 1 Sam 28:1-4), but did not do so typically

— Saul's attempts at inquiry were so unworthy that it would be an abuse of language to say that he was *really* "inquiring of Jehovah"

- God's judgment fell because of Saul's disobedience to His Word (Cf. 1 Sam 13:13-14; 15:23) and Saul's recourse to demonic spirits (1 Sam 28:7)