

2 Samuel 1 New American Standard Bible

nomadic tribe descended from Esau

David Learns of Saul's Death

¹ Now it came about after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, that David stayed two days in Ziklag. ² And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. And it happened when he came to David, he fell to the ground and prostrated himself.

³ Then David said to him, "From where do you come?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." ⁴ David said to him, "How did things go? Please tell me." And he said, "The people have fled from the battle, and many of the people also have fallen and are dead; and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead." ⁵ Then David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?"

⁶ The young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and behold, Saul was leaning on his spear. And behold, the chariots and the horsemen had overtaken him. ⁷ When he looked behind himself, he saw me, and called to me. And I said, 'Here I am.' ⁸ Then he said to me, 'Who are you?' And I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' ⁹ And he said to me, 'Please stand next to me and finish me off, for agony has seized me because my life still lingers in me.' ¹⁰ So I stood next to him and finished him off, because I knew that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown which *was* on his head and the band which *was* on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."

¹¹ Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and *so* also *did* all the men who *were* with him. ¹² And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the people of the Lord and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. ¹³ Then David said to the young man who informed him, "Where are you from?" And he answered, "I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite."

¹⁴ And David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to reach out with your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" ¹⁵ Then David called one of the young men and said, "Come forward, [g]put him to death." So he struck him and he died. ¹⁶ And David said to him, Your blood is on your head, because your *own* mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have finished off the Lord's anointed.'"

David's Song of Mourning for Saul and Jonathan

¹⁷ Then David sang this song of mourning over Saul and his son Jonathan, ¹⁸ and he told *them* to teach the sons of Judah *the mourning song of* the bow; behold, it is written in the Book of Jashar. ¹⁹ "Your beauty, Israel, is slaughtered on your high places! How the mighty have fallen! ²⁰ Tell *it* not in Gath, Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon, Or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice,

The daughters of the uncircumcised will celebrate. ²¹ Mountains of Gilboa, *May there be* no dew nor rain on you, or fields of offerings! For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,

The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil. ²² From the blood of those slaughtered, from the fat of the mighty,

The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return unstained.

²³ Saul and Jonathan, beloved and delightful in life, And in their deaths they were not separated;
They were swifter than eagles, They were mightier than lions. ²⁴ Daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
Who clothed you in scarlet, with jewelry, Who put gold jewelry on your apparel.

²⁵ How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan is slaughtered on your high places.

²⁶ I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been a close friend to me. Your love for me was more wonderful Than the love of women.

²⁷ How the mighty have fallen, And the weapons of war have perished!”

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God’s character?

1. There was a young man who happened to encounter King Saul.
2. Can you imagine a conversation with the King?
3. David had been out to war against the enemies of Israel, fulfilling a mandate to remove evil nations from the land.
4. This young man was an alien to Israel, what does this mean?
5. Who were the Amalekites?
6. This young man had sorted David out to inform him of the death of King Saul, he also brought to him the royal crown.
7. Having heard the young mans’ testimony David took hold of the situation by asking the young man questions.
8. He who asks the questions controls the conversation.
9. The young man told David that he had escaped from Israel so, he must have been in the same battle as King Saul.
10. David is eager to find out how things were with King Saul and Jonathon.
11. The army of the Lord had fled there enemy, many had died, things had not gone so well. Saul and Jonathon were dead.
12. David presses the young man as to how he knew all these things. Did the young man want to disclose as much information as David was seeking from him? Did he want to reveal to him the details of Saul’s death?
13. Asking the question ‘how do you know these things’ is a good question to ask when people gossip.
14. The young man uses a term ‘it happened by chance’. What does chance really mean?
15. King Saul was found leaning on his spear which was an indication that he tried to commit suicide.
16. Why would someone take their own life?
17. How does God feel about committing suicide?
18. The young man reveals that Saul had invited him to finish him off to alleviate his suffering and humiliation.

19. All through Saul's life he took matters into his own hands, even though this offended God.
20. Was it right for the young man to kill the King? Did he do an evil thing?
21. Was it right for David to have the young man killed?
22. Was it right for the young man to take the King's crown?
23. Why would David and his men show such remorse and grief for King Saul by tearing their clothes?
24. Why did David go into such a deep mourning?
25. Why does David feel so aggrieved that he acts in this way against this young Man?
26. Was it a fair question on David's part to ask the young man if he was qualified to kill a King, the Lord's anointed?
27. Was a rebellious King still the Lord's anointed?
28. Was David justified in killing the young man?
29. Wasn't it true that the young man acted in mercy to save Saul's suffering?
30. There was a song titled 'the song of the bow'.
31. What is the book of Jashar.?
32. The song is all about Israel's misery in the battles against their enemies.
33. The song is a hymn of the Old Testament about past heroes, like Davy Crocket.
34. The translation of the books title is 'the book of the just man'.
35. There is an incredible revelation of intimacy revealed in David's love for Jonathon.
36. Some have suggested David and Jonathon were lovers, usually homosexuals.
37. Why do people speak well of the dead even though during their lives they did not always represent good people?
38. Saul's leadership and Jonathon's service had blessed Israel for many years, making them prosperous.
39. We hear of the famous say 'how have the mighty fallen' but Saul was not so mighty at the end of his life!
40. It was Jonathon that David loved so much.
41. David missed Jonathon's friendship.
42. It is much harder to let a good man go than a bad man.
43. David declares the unity and the friendship they had surpassed even the love of a woman. David is possibly referring to Jonathon's sister, who was his wife – Micah. What do you make of this?