

**“Historical Books Of The Bible”**  
**1 Samuel 31:1-13**  
**Wednesday January 14, 2015**

**1 Samuel 31:1-13**

**1 Corinthians 10:12**

**1 Samuel 28-31 – The Battle That Takes Saul’s Life.**

**1 Samuel 28 – Philistines gather to battle Israel.**

**1 Samuel 29 – God mercifully delivers David out of a predicament.**

**1 Samuel 30 – David returns back to his home in Philistine territory only to find the city burned; the city taken in a raid by the Amalekites.**

**1 Samuel 31 – The Battle that takes Saul’s life.**

**1. Verses 1-2 – Defeat**

**2. Verses 3-7 – Death**

**3. Verses 8-10 – Disgrace**

**4. Verses 11-13 – Devotion**

**1. Verses 1-2 – Defeat:**

1 Samuel 31:1

“Now” – the writer left off with David’s victory over the Amalekites.

1 Samuel 30:26-31 – David Distributes The Spoils From The Victory Over The Amalekites: 1 Samuel 30:26.

“the Philistines were fighting against Israel,” – 1 Samuel 28:1.

1 Samuel 29:1

“men of Israel fled from before the Philistines” – Fleeing and Falling.

Romans 8:7

1 Samuel 28:16

“Mt. Gilboa” – same area that Gideon camped at where the Lord granted him great victory, Judges 7:1.

## **Defeat comes from the inside not the outside!**

1 Samuel 31:2

"Jonathan" – "The Lord gave"

"Abinadab" – "Father, source of liberality"

"Malchi-shua" – "King of help"

Saul had one more son – Ish-bosheth, 2 Samuel 2:8-10.

## **2. Verses 3-7 – Death:**

1 Samuel 31:3

No surprise, God said it would happen – 1 Samuel 28:19.

1 Samuel 31:4

"make sport of me." – Philistines – Amalekites would torture, mutilate their victims.

Psalms 23:4

"armor bearer would not, for he was greatly afraid" – 1 Samuel 24:6.

"Saul took his sword and fell on it." – Committed suicide!

## **Saul's 11 Steps Down:**

- 1. 1 Samuel 10:22** – Saul hid by the baggage – Humility – Good, but if it keeps you from responsibility, it is a peril. Saul's whole kingship was hiding from God.
- 2. 1 Samuel 13:8-15** – Saul was impatient; stepped in the office of priest; no repentance – his kingdom would not endure.
- 3. 1 Samuel 14:2** – Saul, sitting under a pomegranate tree. Instead of fighting the enemy, Saul was sitting.
- 4. 1 Samuel 14:24-46** – Saul placed his soldiers under oath in the heat of a military campaign – was going to kill son; his own – Jonathan.

5. **1 Samuel 15:26** – Saul rejected the word of the Lord – “Lord rejected you being king over Israel.”
6. **1 Samuel 16:14** – Evil spirit from the Lord terrorized Saul.
7. **1 Samuel 17** – David killed Goliath – Saul afraid of the Philistines.
8. **1 Samuel 18:6-20** – Saul was angry at David – Jealous, suspicious, afraid, attempted murder – spear (18:11), other murder attempts.
9. **1 Samuel 19:9-10** – Saul attempts again to spear at David.
10. **1 Samuel 22:18** – Saul kills 85 priests – Saul chases David about 10 yrs.
11. **1 Samuel 28:3-25** – Saul goes to a witch at En-dor to seek God’s counsel

Saul never once repented – 1 Samuel 15:24 – Saul said “I have sinned” – He said “I have played the fool and have committed a serious error”, 1 Samuel 26:21

But to know the right way and to condemn the wrong way is not a replacement for doing the right thing! Never repented.

1 Samuel 31:5-6

Samuel had warned Israel: 1 Samuel 12:24-25

1 Samuel 31:7

Holy Spirit’s Commentary – 1 Chronicles 10:13-14

### **3. Verses 8-10 – Disgrace:**

1 Samuel 31:8-9

“cut off his head” – The head of your enemy was like a trophy.

1 Samuel 17:54 – David carried Goliath’s head around.

1 Samuel 5 – Philistines took possession of the ark of God.

1 Samuel 31:10 – “They put his weapons in the temple of Ashtaroth, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan.”

"They put his weapons in the temple of Ashtaroah," – Canaanite goddess in South Arabia; "to be fertile, to irrigate"; a god identified with the planet Venus.

1 Samuel 5:1-2

"and set it by Dagon" – literally, "at his side".

Pictures Of Beth-shan: "Beth-shan" – "house of security – home of the serpent god"

#### **4. Verses 11-13 – Devotion:**

1 Samuel 31:11

"Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead" – 1 Samuel 11:1-11.

1 Samuel 31:12

"all the valiant men rose and walked all night," – Distance of about 12 miles

1 Samuel 31:13

David blesses the Men for showing kindness to Saul! 2 Samuel 2:4-7.

#### **Application:**

1. Saul's Greatest Failures Were That Saul Transgressed Against God's Word And Disobeyed God's Will.
2. We Learn From Saul That Possessing Gifts, Talents And God-Given Opportunities Is No Guarantee Of One Being A Faithful Servant Of God.
3. To Know The Right Way And To Condemn The Wrong Way Is Not A Replacement For Doing The Right Thing. Saul Never Repented – God Wanted Saul's Heart But All God Got Was Excuses.