

1 Samuel 31

King James Version (KJV)

(The death of Saul)

31 Now the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. (The Israelites are in full retreat and getting killed while doing it)

²And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Melchishua, Saul's sons. (Saul probably saw his sons die. They would have been fighting side-by-side)

1Samuel-14:49 (Abinadab is also called Ishui)

³And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers. (This was God's judgment upon Saul, for all of the sins that he had committed)

⁴Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it. (Killing the king would have been a death sentence for his armorbearer)

⁵And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.

⁶So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

NOTE: (In Chronicles, it is written that Saul's entire house died that day. Only the sons that were with Saul died. Ishbosheth was at home. Also a son of Jonathan, Meshibosheth, wasn't there. Also, Abner, Saul's cousin, survived the battle)

⁷And 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.

NOTE: (When the Israelites entered the Promised Land, God gave them the houses of the Canaanites. Now, God was giving their houses to the

Philistines; because Israel had fallen into idol worship and many other sins against God)

⁸And it came to pass on the morrow, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen in mount Gilboa. (They were collecting the spoils)

⁹And they cut off his head, and stripped off his armour, and sent into the land of the Philistines round about, to publish it in the house of their idols, and among the people. (They did that to prove that they had killed Saul and defeated Israel)

¹⁰And they put his armour in the house of Ashtaroth: and they fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan. (Bethshan = house of rest; this was one of the cities that God had told the Israelites to wipe out the Canaanites that lived there. The Israelites didn't do it, and so this city remained allied with the Philistines)

(Ashteroth was a form for Ishtar worship – the pagan queen of heaven - from which our "holiday" Easter came)

In 1Chronicles (It is also written that Saul's skull was mounted in the house of Dagon; an idol fish god of the Philistines)

¹¹And when the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul; (These were the people that Saul had helped against Nahash and the Ammonites. Nahash means serpent)

¹²All 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. (This is the first record of cremation in the Bible)

NOTE: (Some ignorant preachers today preach that cremation is wrong, because the dead cannot resurrect after death. That is completely wrong. Once our flesh body dies, we will never need it again. The Third Age will be populated by the people in their original spiritual bodies. There won't be any flesh there)

Ecclesiastes-12:6-7 (Once we die, our flesh body returns to the earth, and our spirit self returns to the Father who gave it. Both cremation or burial are ok with God)

¹³ And they took their bones, and buried them under a tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days. (They did this in gratitude and as a show of respect for Saul and his house)