

2 Samuel 1

King James Version (KJV)

(David will rule Judah for 7 ½ years, and then all of Israel for another 33 ½ years)

1 Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had abode two days in Ziklag;

²It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance. (These are symbolic for someone who is in mourning)

³And David said unto him, From whence comest thou? And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped.

⁴And David said unto him, How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also. (This Amalekite thinks that David will be happy with the news that Saul is dead)

⁵And David said unto the young man that told him, How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead? (Did he see it or did he just hear of it?)

⁶And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him. (This is all lies. Where was Abner? Where was Jonathan? Where was Saul's armor bearer? The king would not have been fighting alone)

⁷And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, Here am I.

⁸And he said unto me, Who art thou? And I answered him, I am an Amalekite. 1Samuel-15 (God ordered all Amalekites destroyed)

⁹He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life is yet whole in me. (More lies)

¹⁰ So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord. (He probably stole them from someone, or took them from Saul after he was dead)

¹¹ Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him: (They were in mourning for Saul)

¹² And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword. (Saul's and his army lost the battle to the Philistines. Many Israelites died that day)

¹³ And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence art thou? And he answered, I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite. (He is a sojourner in Israel)

¹⁴ And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD's anointed? (Oh, oh! The Amalekite realizes he's in trouble with David)

¹⁵ And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him that he died. (His lies got him killed instead of rewarded)

¹⁶ And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD's anointed.

¹⁷ And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:

¹⁸ (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah [the use of](#) the bow: behold, it is written in the [book of Jasher](#).) (the use of – was added by the English translators. It should read – This song called The Bow. This is the name that David gave this lamentation)

(Jasher- possibly a collection of songs or odes – probably lost over time. There is no book of Jasher in the Bible)

¹⁹ The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!

²⁰ Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph. (These are 2 of the 5 major cities of the Philistines)

²¹ Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil. (David is asking nature to mourn Saul and Jonathan)

(cast away = defiled with blood – bad translation)

(as though he had not been anointed with oil - Saul's shield was defiled with his own blood and there was no one there to clean it with oil – better translation)

²² From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty. (They fought valiantly and didn't retreat)

²³ Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. (Jonathan helped David, but he never turned against Saul. He fought by Saul's side until the end)

²⁴ Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.

²⁵ How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. (Mount Gilboa)

²⁶ I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. (They were like brothers)

²⁷ How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished! (weapons = heroes – better translation; the heroes were figuratively thought of as the weapons of Israel)