

Saul Died, and His Three Sons...

1 Samuel 31

1 Sam 31:1-2

Philistines demolishing Israelites.

Killed: Jonathan, Abinadab, Malchi-shua, sons of Saul,

Saul's intense desire to have whole kingdom caused him to lose his children.

When we lose focus and become greedy for gain we lose most important possession: family.

1 Sam 31:3

Special task force of archers -- assignment of taking Saul down.

Saul severely wounded

1 Sam 31:4

...and abuse (maltreat, sport, mock, make fun of) me.

Philistines known for cruelty.

1 Sam 31:5-7 1 Chr 10:13-14

Roe: When Saul and all the retainers were killed and the Israelites saw the battle raging on up the hill after them, they turned tail and ran. This allowed the Philistines to move right into the Valley of Jezreel, surge all the way to the Jordan, even cross the Jordan and cut Israel in half. They didn't even have to fight. The great fortress of Beth-shan, which comes into the action a few verses later on, was situated on a mountain in the middle of the plain and was literally the focal point for central Palestine. The Philistines didn't even have to fight for it. They just walked in and took it over. God "gave them over." When God gives you over, you are out. OUT! These were the people of God, and this was God's discipline for the kingdom.

1 Sam 31:8-10

News of death sent throughout land of Philistines

Body of Saul fastened to *wall of Beth-shan*

Announce: Dagon won! Jehovah lost!

Saul's armor hung in temple of Ashtaroth, goddess of fertility.

Cut off head and fastened in house of Dagon, chief god.

Took four bodies and strung up in Beth-shan.

Roe: These people believed in local gods, Dagon their god was far bigger than Yahweh. Who wants to turn to Yahweh when he doesn't win? We all like to be on the winning side. The tragedy was that the "good news" to the Philistines was that a false god was THE god. Unfortunately they are led into this by the rebellion of the people of God, the Israelites, because God allowed it to happen.

What happens when Christians fall into sin?

Drag others along with them.

Cause unbelievers to become more hardened in unbelief.

See name of Jehovah being blasphemed among Gentiles because of judgment of God upon His people.

Israelites retrieved bodies of Saul and his sons, and gave proper burial (31:12-13).

1 Sam 31:11

Back when Saul first became king ... Spirit of God came upon Saul ... called Israel to fight against Ammonites.

Jabesh-gilead saved.

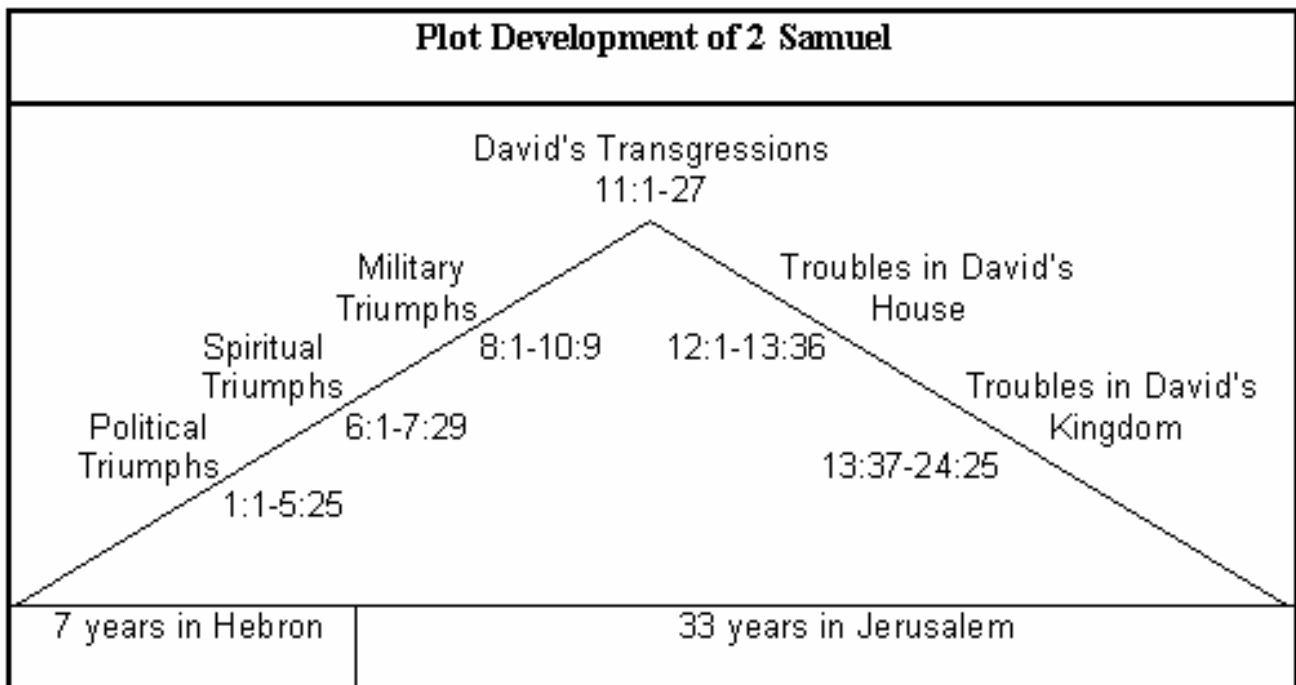
These men remembered.

Walked all night for 20 miles to honor Saul.

Mission: retrieve bodies.

1 Sam 31:12-13

Philistines done something horribly abusive to bodies so burned off flesh so never again viewed in that state. Then buried bones under tamarisk tree.



David Becomes King (2 Sam 1.1 – 5.6)

A. Time of Coronation – after Saul's death (1.1-27)

1. Report of Saul's death (1.1-10)