

DAVID MOURNS SAUL AND JONATHAN

Introduction:

1. David had been pursuing the Amalekites who had taken captive the women and children of Ziklag (1 Sam. 30).
2. While he was away, the Israelites and the Philistines had fought one another in battle.
3. Jonathan was killed in battle and Saul was wounded, ultimately deciding to take his own life.
4. After defeating the Amalekites, David returned to Ziklag and soon learned of Israel's defeat and the deaths of Saul and Jonathan.

- I. The Report to David (1:1-10)
 - A. David and his men abode in Ziklag, no doubt resting and recuperating from their recent struggles.
 - B. News traveled slowly in those days; so, it was on the third day that a man from Saul's camp came to David with information.
 - C. His appearance indicated that he brought bad news to David.
 1. He looked as one who was in mourning.
 2. However, it may have been customary for one who was not in mourning to dress this way if he would be among those who were mourning.
 - D. He reported to David that Israel had been defeated in battle and many had been killed.
 - E. He also informed him that Saul and Jonathan had been killed.
 - F. When asked how he knew this, he claimed to have been an eyewitness.
 - G. In fact, he took credit for being the one to deliver the death blow to Saul.
 - H. As evidence, he presented the crown and bracelet that belonged to the departed King.
 1. In truth, this man had not killed Saul.
 2. He may have been close to have seen what happened.
 3. He is attempting to ingratiate himself to David, whom he recognizes will be the next king.
 4. However, he does not know the heart of David.

- II. The Response of David (1:11-12)
 - A. Upon learning of these events, David mourned deeply.
 1. For Saul (his father-in-law turned enemy, but God's anointed)
 2. For Jonathan (his closest and dearest friend)
 3. For the people of Jehovah (who had died in battle)
 4. For the house of Israel (which had suffered defeat)
 - B. It is worth noting that the "only deep mourning for Saul, with the exception of the Jabeshites (1 Sam. 31:11), proceeded from the man whom he had hated and persecuted for so many years even to the time of his death" (Gerlach).
 - C. Truly, David demonstrates what it means to love one's enemies (Matt. 5:44; cf. Psalm 35:13-14; Prov. 24:17-18; Job 31:28-29; Rom. 12:14, 20-21; 1 Pet. 2:23; Luke 23:34; Matt. 23:37-39).

- III. The Retribution of David (1:13-16)
 - A. David's attention soon returned to the young man who claimed to have killed Saul.
 - B. He asked why he was not afraid to kill the anointed of Jehovah.

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1. This young man was the son of a stranger.
 2. This refers to a sojourner among the Israelites.
 3. Though they were not Jewish by blood, they were held to the standards of the Law of Moses.
 4. He had no excuse for ignorance of the law.
- C. Because he confessed to killing Saul, he was now guilty of murder and worthy of death.
- D. Thus, David commanded for him to be executed.
- E. This man's deception backfired because of David's loyalty to God and love for his enemies.
- IV. The Requiem of David (1:17-27)
- A. David chanted (lamented) a dirge (elegy, funeral song) for Saul and Jonathan.
 - B. He also commanded it to be learned by the children of Judah.
 - C. It is called *Kesheth* or "The Bow" or "The Song of the Bow."
 1. This is the weapon of Jonathan mentioned in the dirge.
 2. This was the weapon that wounded Saul.
 3. This was a weapon well known in Israel.
 - D. David's sorrow is personal as well as national.