

II Samuel 1:1-16

David hears of Saul's death:

¹After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. ²And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid homage. ³David said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." ⁴And David said to him, "How did it go? Tell me." And he answered, "The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead." ⁵Then David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" ⁶And the young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul leaning on his spear, and behold, the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him. ⁷And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' ⁸And he said to me, 'Who are you?' I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' ⁹And he said to me 'Stand beside me and kill

me, for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers.' ¹⁰So I stood beside him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the armlet that was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."

¹¹Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him.

¹²And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. ¹³And David said to the young man who told him, "Where do you come from?" And he answered, "I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite." ¹⁴David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?"

¹⁵Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go, execute him." And he struck him down so that he died. ¹⁶And David said to him, "Your blood be on your head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD's anointed.'"

DISCUSSION:

- What did a man from Saul's camp bring to David? Why would he bring those items?
- What did the Amalekite messenger expect David to do when he heard of Saul's death? Why did he credit himself with killing Saul? Read I Sam 31:1-7
- Why did David and the other men tear their clothes, mourn, cry and fast?
- What is the significance of David's question in Verse 14?
- What did David have done to the Amalekite who claimed to have killed Saul? Why would he have done this?

II Samuel 1:17-27

David's lament for Saul and Jonathan

¹⁷And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son, ¹⁸and he said it should be taught to the people of Judah; behold, it is written in the Book of Jashar. He said:

¹⁹"Your glory, O Israel, is slain on your high places!

How the mighty have fallen!

²⁰ Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon,

lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.

²¹ "You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon

you,
nor fields of offerings!
For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
the shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.
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.
²³"Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!
In life and in death they were not divided;
they were swifter than eagles;
they were stronger than lions.
²⁴"You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet,
who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.
²⁵ "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!
"Jonathan lies slain on your high places.
²⁶I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
very pleasant have you been to me;
your love to me was extraordinary,
surpassing the love of women.

²⁷ "How the mighty have fallen,
and the weapons of war perished!"

DISCUSSION:

- Why would David mourn at the death of Saul, a man who was his sworn enemy?
- What do you think is unusual about David's lament in view of his last ten years? What does that tell us about his spirit?
- What is a time in your life when you have mourned over a tragedy, or event that has taken place?
- When was the last time you mourned with someone over a tragedy or event?
- What purpose does God have for mourning and suffering in our lives? II Cor 1:8-11, James 1:2-4, Rom 5:3-5
- How can we help each other during times of mourning and suffering? Gal 6:2
- In what ways have you seen God use that time of mourning as a means to bring encouragement or help to others?
- Read David's lament again Vs. 19-27. What are some recurring themes? What descriptions does he give about Saul and Jonathan?
- David uses the term "How the mighty have fallen", 3 times, what does he mean by this? Why are Saul and Jonathan considered mighty? Why would they be lamented more than the other men lost in the battle?

APPLICATION

- What opportunities do you have to bear the burdens of people around you?

- Name a time when you have been supported in mourning or tragedy by a friend. How did that make you feel? Did you experience the love of God through that time?
- When national tragedy has occurred (9/11, Hurricane Katrina, Rita, etc.) how did you react? How did the church react? How would God have for us to react?
- Do you have the love and respect of those in positions of governmental authority? What do you do to show that love and respect? (Remember, love and respect doesn't mean you agree, or like what is taking place.)
- What type of example do you set for the younger generations in relation to bearing the burdens of those around you? In what ways can you improve? Share what you plan to do this week to reach out to the body of Christ and minister to those in need.

FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL **LESSON**

April 24, 2011

The death and mourning of King Saul

Focal Passage: II Sam 1

Cross References: II Cor 1:8-11, Jam 1:2-4, Rom 5:3-5, Gal 6:2, I Sam 31:1-7

(verses taken from the ESV)

Central Idea: David mourns and laments over Saul, King of Israel and Saul's son Jonathan's deaths at the hands of the Philistines.

Lesson Idea: We are called to support and respect those leaders God has placed in our lives. Even when our feelings or thoughts disagree, they are placed by God and must be prayed for and lamented when tragedy strikes. Rom 13:1-7. We are also to support each other when those times of tragedy strike and mourn together as the body of Christ. Gal 6:2.

Background: The majority of the action recorded in 1st and 2nd Samuel took place in and around the central highlands in the land of Israel.

The events of 1st and 2nd Samuel took place between the years of 1105 B.C. the birth of Samuel (I Sam 1:1-28) to 971 B.C. the last words of David (II Sam 23:1-7). The book spans about 135 years of history. During these years Israel is transformed from a loosely knit group of tribes under the judges to a united nation under the reign of a centralized monarchy. They deal primarily with Samuel (1105-1030 B.C.), Saul

who was king from 1051-1011 B.C. and David who was king from 1011-971 B.C.

I Samuel ends with the death of King Saul, his armor bearer and his three sons. After his death the Philistines defiled the bodies of Saul and his sons and mounted them on the wall of Beth-shan. The men of Jabesh-gilead gathered together and took back the bodies of Saul and his sons to bury them in Jabesh.

In II Sam 1 we pick up where I Sam left off. The news of the death of Saul and his sons (specifically Jonathan) reaches David and we see his response in Chapter 1.

Bible in a Year Readings

Mar 20-27, 2011

April 17: I Sam 25-27

April 18: Ps 17/35/54/63

April 19: I Sam 28-31, Ps 18

April 20: Ps 121/123-125/128-130

April 21: II Sam 1-4

April 22: Ps 6/8-10/14/16/19/21

April 23: I Chron 1-2

April 24: Ps 43-45/49/84-85/87

Highlights of the Week:

I Sam 25: The Death of Samuel

I Sam 26: David spares Saul again

I Sam 27: David flees to the Philistines

I Sam 28: Saul and the witch of En-dor

I Sam 30: David defeats the Amalekites

I Sam 31: The death of King Saul

II Sam 1: David learns of Saul's death

II Sam 2: David anointed King of Judah

I Chron 1-2: Genealogies and kings