### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 31

1Meanwhile, in the war between the Philistines and IsraEl, the IsraElites had been routed by the Philistines, who slaughtered them all the way to Mount GilBoa. 2The Philistines also caught up with Saul and his sons, and they were able to cut down Saul’s sons JoNathan, AbiNadab, and MelchiShua.  
  
3However, the battle got bogged down as they were fighting Saul… But then a bowman shot at Saul and wounded him in the spleen.  
  
4And Saul said to his weapons bearer:  
  
 ‘Unsheathe your broadsword and run me through with it, so that one of these uncircumcised men doesn’t make fun of me before he kills me!’  
  
Well, the man who was carrying his weapons was afraid and he didn’t want to do it; so Saul took his broadsword and fell on it. 5And when the man carrying his weapons saw that Saul was dead, he fell on his sword and died also.  
  
6So Saul, all three of his sons, his weapons bearer, and all of his men died that same day.  
  
7And when the men of IsraEl that were on the other side of the JorDan Valley saw that Saul and his sons were dead, they all ran away… They just fled their cities and ran; and thereafter, the Philistines took [their cities] and lived there.  
  
8Well, it was when the Philistines came to strip the dead that they found Saul and his three sons dead on Mount GilBoa.  
  
9So they cut off [Saul’s] head and took his weapons, and they sent them all around the land of the Philistines to announce the good news to their idols and to their people.  
  
10Thereafter, they presented his weapons [to the goddess] Astarte, and they nailed [Saul’s] body to a wall in BethSham.  
  
  
11However, when the people in JabIsh GileAd heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, 12all their mighty men went out that night and recovered the bodies of Saul and his son JoNathan from the wall in BethSham, and brought them back to JabIsh, where they were burned [in a funeral pyre].  
  
13Then they took their bones and placed them in a tomb in the plowed field of JabIsh, and they fasted for 7 days.

# 2 Samuel

2 Samuel is a history book.  
  
It’s part 2 of what was originally a 4-part book (now called 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings). It’s usually pronounced ‘Second Samuel’ rather than ‘Two Samuel.’  
  
Despite it’s modern name, it was probably written or complied by the prophets Gad or Nathan, since Samuel had died by the time of these events. The book was probably later edited by Ezra.  
  
It covers the events from the death of Saul to David’s sin with the national census.