

Saul's last folly as king, he went to a witch. Sin of witchcraft OT punishable by death Ex 22:18 **so** Saul banished witchcraft 1Sam 28:3, but in rebellion to God he visits witch of Endor for séance to contact dead Samuel to know how the battle w/ Philistines will turn out...*he and sons will die*. And he does in 1Samuel 31 there are breaks but a continuation of story of how Saul died in 2Samuel 1.

*1 Now it came about after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, that David remained two days in Ziklag. 2 And it happened on the third day, that behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul, with his clothes torn and dust on his head. And it came about when he came to David that he fell to the ground and prostrated himself. 3 Then David said to him, "From where do you come?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." 4 And David said to him, "How did things go? Please tell me." And he said, "The people have fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also."*

Amalekites made a raid on Ziklag while David and his men hiding out from the wrath of Saul in Gath, leaving the families unprotected in Ziklag. Being dismissed by king Achish to go back home, finding the city burned and families taken, David and his men went after the Amalekites defeating them and rescuing all the families unharmed.

David very concerned w/ the battle Achish waging against Israel, how things were turning out. Remember Achish wanted David to go w/ him be his body guard yet commanders protested & they sent home (*providence*).

We need to look deeper at this man if he is telling the truth or wanting favor and reward from David. It was well known Saul seeking to kill David & w/ Saul's death it would seem to be a positive thing to David & one responsible would be rewarded by or at least favorable to David or so it would appear to natural mind.

He looks the part, came right from the battle, escaped, torn cloths, hair messed up & dirty, he bows sign of submission & humility. David asks about Israel's situation, how did things go, tell me. David is anxious to know, eager to hear which gives the man advantage, he's got the story, can tell it anyway he wants to gain favor w/ David. *People fled and fallen*, a bad situation plus Saul & Jonathan are dead. But he didn't tell Saul's other 2 sons died also. The man knew Jonathan had a special friendship w/ David, so it pulls at the heart strings.

Maybe at this point the man believes David is on his side & all he is saying has brought him in to David's confidence.

*5 So David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?"*

David is probing, questioning the credibility, testing to see if he is lying.

*6 And the young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and behold, Saul was leaning on his spear. And behold, the chariots and the horsemen pursued him closely. 7 "And when he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I said, 'Here I am.' 8 "And he said to me, 'Who are you?' And I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' 9 "Then he said to me, 'Please stand beside me and kill me; for agony has seized me because my life still lingers in me.' 10 "So I stood beside him and killed him, because I knew that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown which was on his head and the bracelet which was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."*

I just happened to be on Mt Gilboa (**scavenger**) & see Saul in his chariot leaning on his spear but he wasn't dead, the Philistines where in hot pursuit & Saul called to me & asked if I would kill him & I saw he was going to die anyway so I did. I took his crown & bracelet to prove I was there & wanted to bring them to you David.

Some say he made up the story to get in good graces w/ David. Others admit it's a true story & Saul died for his disobedience when God said destroy the Amalekites & but didn't & after seeking a witch died because of his disobedience to God....All an example of what rebelling against God & disobedience as the sin of witchcraft. **1Sam 15:23** *"For rebellion is as the sin of divination/**witchcraft**, And insubordination is as iniquity & idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king."*

**11** Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so also did all the men who were with him. **12** And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and his son Jonathan and for the people of the LORD and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

Ripping of cloths a symbol in that culture of grief over death & dismay that Amalekite did it. If he did or didn't do it, at this point panic, shaking in his sandals, not expecting what he is seeing. **No high fives, carry on shoulder, way to go buddy**....He knows he's blown it & should have known better.

**13** And David said to the young man who told him, "Where are you from?" And he answered, "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite." **14** Then David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to stretch out your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" **15** And David called one of the young men and said, "Go, cut him down." So he struck him and he died. **16** And David said to him, "Your blood is on your head, for your mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD's anointed.'"

If he did or didn't *that which comes from the mouth proceeds from the heart*...which means he would have done it even if he didn't do it---It was in his heart to curry favor w/ David---**just the opposite**. David a man of principle *'Who can stretch out his hand against God's anointed and be w/o guilt'* **1Sam 26:9** *When the sentence for a crime is not speedily executed, the hearts of men become fully set on doing evil. Eccl 8:11* **Guilt is on you no psyc or excuse**

*17 Then David chanted with this lament over Saul and Jonathan his son, 18 and he told them to teach the sons of Judah the song of the bow; behold, it is written in the book of Jashar.* Joshua 10:12-13 Book of upright or just man

*19 “Your beauty, O Israel, is slain on your high places! How have the mighty fallen!*

David’s love for Saul never waivered--calls him the beauty of Israel after all Saul put him thru. Never exposed Saul’s faults. How David saw Saul begin was always how he saw him to be. When Samuel called Saul a young man searching for his fathers’ donkey’s *1Sam 9:20b... And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father’s household?”*

*20 “Tell it not in Gath, Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon; Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.*

Don’t broadcast to cities of Philistines who would mock, celebrate & glory in his death. When conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh died of lung cancer *“I wouldn’t say I was happy that Rush Limbaugh died. It’s more like euphoria \*\* Throw him in a dumpster \*\* Good riddance \*\* Burn in hell*

*“Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, and He turn away His wrath from him” Proverbs 24:17-18*

*21 “O mountains of Gilboa, Let not dew or rain be on you, nor fields of offerings; For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.*

Memorial mountain place defiled Saul in battle, let the place be barren--*The higher reaches of Mount Gilboa are mostly barren, with only dried ferula plants, a few shrubs, and purple globe thistle.* Oiled shields spears, swords, arrows glance off—fighter in ring petroleum jelly

*22 “From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return empty. 23 “Saul and Jonathan, beloved and pleasant in their life, And in their death they were not parted; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions.*

Here is the center of the song Saul and Jonathan brave & victorious in battle, men of renown. Jonathan's arrows hit their mark & Saul's sword did not return empty. Like eagles keen sight & lions courage they were swift and strong. David wants the people to remember that both were beloved in spite of faults, especially Jonathan who stuck by his father even in his dad's many missteps & rebellion.

*24 "O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.*

The good that Saul did was to be remembered & be sorrowful & weep. The material benefits were a blessing to you and your lifestyle was one of luxury – In spite of his faults remember the blessings.

*25 "How have the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan is slain on your high places. 26 "I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me. Your love to me was more wonderful Than the love of women. 27" How have the mighty fallen, And the weapons of war perished!"*

Not only brother but brother in law, Michal his sister. Deeper love in heart and spirit. To project **homosexual** inferences is unjustified. David wrote **Ps 19:7-11** Lev 18:22; 20:13 homosexuality detestable, abomination. To read into this verse as a physical sexual thing demeans & debases the love God brings between two people whether it be man or woman. *Some people's minds are like race horses they run best on dirt tracks.* People w/ a dirty mind will read raunchy into what God declares as pure.

1Sam 18:1 Tells us *Jonathan became one in spirit w/ David and he loved as himself.* The eulogy closes w/ the same phrase *'How have the mighty fallen* then compares Saul and Jonathan to weapons of war used but now lost or perished, never to be used again—departed.