

“Honoring a Former Hero” (1 Sam. 31:8-13)

(A Biblical Game of Thrones: From Saul to Solomon – Lesson #23)

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I. A Reminder: Saul Started His Rule Well.

- His Good Deed from the Past (1 Sam. 11:1-11).

1. The Ammonites _____ the of Jabesh-gilead (1 Sam 11:1).

2. The choice for the Jews: die or surrender and be their servants with your right eye gouged out (v. 2).

A. The Ammonites came from a daughter of Lot who committed incest (Gen. 19:38).

B. They were _____ of the Jews.

C. They had refused to let the Jews cross their land on their way to Canaan (Num. 21:21-31).

2. The terrible choices they gave to Jabesh-gilead: surrender as slaves or _____ (v. 2).

A. If you are slaves, we will gouge out your right _____ (v. 2).

B. Yikes! That is my favorite eye!

3. Saul got the message while farming—notice the humble beginnings of Israel’s kingdom.

- This is one reason why Israel wanted a king: to _____ them in battle (8:20).

4. Saul gave a gruesome _____ to arms: cutting a yoke of oxen in pieces to send to each tribe (vv. 6-7).

- The message: if you don’t come help, this will happen to you. Yikes!

5. 330,000 soldiers responded to the Saul (v. 8).

6. Saul ably led them to fight the Ammonites, and _____ gave victory so the Israelites (vv. 9-11).

II. God’s Enemies are Relentless (31:1-10).

1. The Philistines _____ Saul & his 3 sons (vv. 1-6).

- But wounded Saul took his own life.

2. The Israelites abandoned their cities in the area (v. 7).
3. The Philistines _____ Saul's body (vv. 8-9).
4. They put his weapons in a pagan temple of the false goddess Ashtaroth (v. 10).
5. They _____ the bodies on the walls of Beth Shean (v. 10).

III. Saul's Good Deed was Rewarded: Valiant Men of Jabesh-gilead Risked their Lives to Honor Saul (31:11-13).

1. They were still thankful to God and _____ to Saul for their valiant rescue years ago.
2. At great risk:
 - A. They traveled _____ night to Beth Shean.
 - B. They secretly removed the bodies of Saul and his sons from the city walls to not let anyone else dishonor them (v 12).
3. They _____ Saul (v. 13).

IV. Conclusion: Galatians 6:7-10.

1. You reap what you sow (v. 7).
2. Don't lose heart in doing good (v. 9).

Next 2 Weeks (August 4): TBA

(August 11): "How the Mighty Have Fallen" (2 Sam. 1)