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(Peter Lok)駱沅祺

lokpeter@outlook.com

Bibleao.com

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YouTube Prayer Link

Thou shalt not rebel against God; Saul's four sons and himself die on the battlefield
In 1 Samuel 31, the war between Israel and the Philistines continues and finally culminates. Saul was the king of Israel, and he led his son Jonathan and his army into battle against the Philistines.

In this battle, Israel's army suffered a major blow, and Saul's son Jonathan and another son, Abinadab, were also killed in the battle. Saul was pursued by the Philistines, who begged his weaponmen to kill him, but the weaponmen refused. Saul drew his sword and killed himself. The Philistines took the cities of Israel in battle, and they cut off the heads of Saul and Jonathan and hung them on the walls of Beshan. The people of Israel were very sad to hear the news. The people across the Jordan, as well as the people of Carmel and Jekkup, heard the news, and they all mourned the deaths of Saul and Jonathan.

This chapter is the story of Saul and Jonathan's eventual deaths in battle, marking the end of an era in Israel's history. It also paved the way for David to become the next king of Israel, as neither Saul nor his sons were leaders of Israel.

Saul was the first king of Israel, but his reign was not all smooth sailing. The tragic story of Saul and his four sons on the battlefield is a profound reflection of the decline of Saul's kingship. Saul is portrayed as a man chosen by God, but with selfishness and unbelief in his heart. During his reign, he was rebuked for disobeying God's will, and was even called "the man of his own will." His sons also followed this rebellious path, which left a deep sorrow in the history of Israel.

When Saul was faced with a battle against the Philistines, he waited anxiously on the battlefield for the arrival of Priest Samuel in order to receive God's blessings, regardless of God's will. However, his wait turned into a disaster. Saul's sons, Jonathan, Abinadab, Melchishua, and Ameileh, were drawn into this fiasco.

Their death was not only a personal tragedy for Saul, but also a great loss to the nation of Israel. This story reminds us not to ignore God's will and commands, as rebellion and unbelief can bring disaster and destruction.

The tragedy of Saul and his four sons makes us reflect on our own beliefs and actions. Like Jonathan, we should be faithful to God and never turn away from His will. Only in this way can we avoid repeating Saul's mistakes and receive God's protection and blessings.

In the journey of life, we often encounter storms, challenges, and difficulties, but there are also many moments of gratitude that come from Jehovah's grace.

Jehovah's grace is like a clear river that nourishes our hearts. Whether it's a small surprise in our daily lives, or a major turn and good fortune, it's a manifestation of God's endless love and care for us.

As we look back, we must not forget Jehovah's kindness. From the beginning of the world, He gave life and the world to mankind and created all that is good. In every sunrise and sunset, God's marvelous design and infinite love are revealed.

At every turning point in our lives, Jehovah's grace is like a beam of light that illuminates our path. Whether it's finding a way out of a difficult situation or gaining strength in a frustration, it's a manifestation of God's love and care for us.

Therefore, let us be thankful at every moment and never forget Jehovah's kindness. Whether in joy or sorrow, remember that His love is always with us, giving us the strength and courage to face all the challenges of life.

May we always praise Jehovah for his kindness with thanksgiving, for he is the greatest and most loving benefactor in our lives.

There are many passages in the Bible that emphasize the remembrance of Jehovah's kindness. Here are some examples:

Exodus 12: This chapter deals with the establishment of the Passover, commanding the Israelites to commemorate Jehovah's grace in delivering them from Egypt and passing it on to future generations.

Deuteronomy 6: The verses in this chapter emphasize the need to love Jehovah and to engrave His words on your heart, always remembering His grace and love.

Psalms 103: This is a hymn that speaks of all the virtues and favors of the Lord, calling all to praise His holy name and never forget His goodness.

Psalms 136: This is a hymn that repeats the phrase "for his mercy endures forever" in each verse, emphasizing that Jehovah's favor is eternal and unchanging.

Genesis 8, Genesis 9: These chapters tell the story of Jehovah's covenant with Noah after the Flood and his favor toward Noah and his descendants.

These chapters are a reminder to always remember Jehovah's favor and to treat him with thanksgiving. By remembering His grace, we can trust Him more firmly and feel His love and mercy with us.

We pray together

Heavenly Father

May we be thankful and remember Jehovah's love and kindness. May You give us strength, wisdom, and peace to guide us on the path of righteousness. May you keep us from all calamities

and temptations, and let our lives be glorious to you. May we walk with God, always fear God's name, and experience the closeness of God's presence with us. May God's mercy shine in our lives forever. In the name of the Lord, Amen.

1 Samuel

CHAPTER 31

1Sa. 31:1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; the Israelites fled before them, and many fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

1Sa. 31:2 The Philistines pressed hard after Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua.

1Sa. 31:3 The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically.

1Sa. 31:4 Saul said to his armour-bearer, "Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me." But the armour-bearer was terrified and would not do it; so Saul took his own sword and fell on it.

1Sa. 31:5 When the armour-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his sword and died with him.

1Sa. 31:6 So Saul and his three sons and his armour-bearer and all his men died together that same day.

1Sa. 31:7 When the Israelites along the valley and those across the Jordan saw that the Israelite army had fled and that Saul and his sons had died, they abandoned their towns and fled. And the Philistines came and occupied them.

1Sa. 31:8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

1Sa. 31:9 They cut off his head and stripped off his armour, and they sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news in the temple of their idols and among their people.

1Sa. 31:10 They put his armour in the temple of the Ashtoreths and fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan.

1Sa. 31:11 When the people of Jabesh Gilead heard of what the Philistines had done to Saul,

1Sa. 31:12 all their valiant men journeyed through the night to Beth Shan. They took down the bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall of Beth Shan and went to Jabesh, where they burned them.

1Sa. 31:13 Then they took their bones and buried them under a tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted seven days

Chapter 31 of 1 Samuel tells the story of the death of Saul, the first king of Israel. The Philistines and Israelites were at war, and the Philistines were gaining the upper hand. When the Philistines pursued Saul and his sons, Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul was badly wounded by arrows.

Saul ordered his armor-bearer to kill him, but when the armor-bearer refused, Saul took his own life by falling on his own sword. Saul's sons were also killed in battle, and the Philistines beheaded Saul's body and hung it on the wall of Beth-shan.

When the Israelites in the nearby towns heard what had happened, they fled in all directions. The Philistines came and occupied the towns, and found the bodies of Saul and his sons. The Philistines stripped Saul's armor and sent messengers throughout the land to proclaim the news of their victory.

The people of Jabesh-gilead, who had previously been saved by Saul, heard about his death and bravely went to Beth-shan to recover his body. They took it back to Jabesh-gilead and burned it, mourning for him for seven days.

In conclusion, chapter 31 marks the end of Saul's reign as the first king of Israel.

Here are some important verses from chapter 31 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 31:3 - "The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically."

1 Samuel 31:4 - "Saul said to his armor-bearer, 'Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me.' But his armor-bearer was terrified and would not do it; so Saul took his own sword and fell on it."

1 Samuel 31:13 - "Then they took their bones and buried them under a tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted seven days."

These verses describe the tragic end of Saul's life, as he and his sons were defeated in battle against the Philistines. Saul was critically wounded by archers and, rather than be captured and abused by the enemy, he chose to take his own life. This event marked the end of Saul's reign as king and the beginning of David's ascent to the throne. The final verse in the chapter shows the respect that the people of Jabesh had for Saul, as they recovered his body and gave him a proper burial. This chapter highlights the consequences of disobedience to God's commands, as well as the importance of honoring and respecting those who have held positions of authority. It also foreshadows the eventual rise of David as Israel's greatest king.

1 Samuel chapter 31 marks a significant turning point in the narrative as it recounts the tragic end of Saul's life and the defeat of Israel at the hands of the Philistines. This chapter explores themes of tragedy, the consequences of disobedience, and the sovereignty of God.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of tragedy. Saul, despite his initial anointing and the potential he had as king, tragically falls in battle against the Philistines. The chapter portrays a scene of defeat, with Saul and his sons losing their lives and the Israelite army in disarray.

This chapter serves as a somber reminder of the devastating consequences that can result from disobedience and turning away from God's commands. Saul's disobedience and failure to fully

obey God's instructions throughout his reign ultimately led to his downfall. It prompts us to reflect on the destructive power of sin and the importance of living in alignment with God's will.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 31 highlights the sovereignty of God in the midst of tragic events. Despite Saul's failures and the dire circumstances, God's plan continues to unfold. It sets the stage for the rise of David, who would become the next anointed king of Israel.

This chapter reminds us that God is ultimately in control, even in the face of tragic situations. It reassures us that God's purposes will prevail, and He can work through even the darkest moments to bring about His plans. It prompts us to trust in God's sovereignty, even when we cannot fully understand or comprehend the events unfolding around us.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 31 emphasizes the importance of learning from the mistakes of others. Saul's tragic end serves as a cautionary tale, warning us of the consequences of disobedience and the danger of allowing pride and self-will to govern our lives.

This chapter encourages us to reflect on our own lives and examine areas where we may be prone to disobedience or self-will. It prompts us to humble ourselves before God, seek His guidance, and learn from the lessons of those who came before us. It reminds us of the importance of cultivating a heart of obedience and surrender to God's will.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 31 brings forth reflections on tragedy, the consequences of disobedience, and the sovereignty of God. It serves as a sobering reminder of the destructive power of sin and the importance of living in obedience to God's commands. It reassures us of God's sovereignty, even in the midst of tragic circumstances, and prompts us to learn from the mistakes of others. May we humbly submit to God's will, learn from the lessons of Scripture, and trust in His sovereignty in all aspects of our lives.

Notes:

Here are some of the most difficult questions from the book of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible that have no clear answer:

1. Why did God reject Saul as king and choose David instead?
2. Why did Samuel anoint David as king while Saul was still alive and reigning?
3. Did Samuel really appear to Saul from the dead, or was it a deception?
4. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart and allow him to pursue the Israelites, leading to the events of the Exodus?
5. What was the nature of the "evil spirit" that tormented Saul, and why did God allow it?
6. Was David's relationship with Jonathan purely platonic, or did it have romantic or sexual overtones?
7. What exactly did Saul do to anger God so greatly that He rejected him as king?
8. Did the witch of Endor truly summon Samuel's spirit, or was it a deception?

These are just a few of the many difficult questions that arise from the book of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible, and they continue to be the subject of much debate and interpretation among scholars and believers.