

Ziklag is Raided by the Amalekites (c. 1010 BC)

1 Samuel 30:1–25

David Returns to Find Ziklag in Ruins

- 1 On the third day David and his men came to Ziklag. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They attacked Ziklag and burned it.
- 2 They took captive the women who were in it, from the youngest to the oldest, but they did not kill anyone. They simply carried them off and went on their way.
- 3 When David and his men came to the city, they found it burned. Their wives, sons, and daughters had been taken captive.
- 4 Then David and the men who were with him wept loudly until they could weep no more.
- 5 David's two wives had been taken captive—Ahinoam the Jezreelite and Abigail the Carmelite, Nabal's widow.

David Pursues the Raiders

- 6 David was very upset, for the men were thinking of stoning him; each man grieved bitterly over his sons and daughters. But David drew strength from the LORD his God.
- 7 Then David said to the priest Abiathar son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." So Abiathar brought the ephod to David.
- 8 David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Should I pursue this raiding band? Will I overtake them?" He said to him, "Pursue, for you will certainly overtake them and carry out a rescue!"
- 9 So David went, accompanied by his six hundred men. When he came to the Wadi Besor, those who were in the rear stayed there.
- 10 David and four hundred men continued the pursuit, but two hundred men who were too exhausted to cross the Wadi Besor stayed there.
- 11 Then they found an Egyptian in the field and brought him to David. They gave him bread to eat and water to drink.
- 12 They gave him a slice of pressed figs and two bunches of raisins to eat. This greatly refreshed him, for he had not eaten food or drunk water for three days and three nights.
- 13 David said to him, "To whom do you belong, and where are you from?" The young man said, "I am an Egyptian, the servant of an Amalekite man. My master abandoned me when I was ill for three days.
- 14 We conducted a raid on the Negev of the Kerethites, on the area of Judah, and on the Negev of Caleb. We burned Ziklag."
- 15 David said to him, "Can you take us down to this raiding party?" He said, "Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or hand me over to my master, and I will take you down to this raiding party."
- 16 So he took David down, and they found them spread out over the land. They were eating and drinking and enjoying themselves because of all the loot they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah.

David Defeats the Amalekites

- 17 But David struck them down from twilight until the following evening. None of them escaped, with the exception of four hundred young men who got away on camels.
- 18 David retrieved everything the Amalekites had taken; he also rescued his two wives.
- 19 There was nothing missing, whether small or great. He retrieved sons and daughters, the plunder, and everything else they had taken. David brought everything back.
- 20 David took all the flocks and herds and drove them in front of the rest of the animals. People were saying, "This is David's plunder!"

David Shares With Those Who Stayed Behind

- 21 Then David approached the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to go with him, those whom they had left at the Wadi Besor. They went out to meet David and the people who were with him. When David approached the people, he asked how they were doing.
- 22 But all the evil and worthless men among those who had gone with David said, "Since they didn't go with us, we won't give them any of the loot we retrieved! They may take only their wives and children. Let them lead them away and be gone!"
- 23 But David said, "No! You shouldn't do this, my brothers. Look at what the LORD has given us! He has protected us and has delivered into our hands the raiding party that came against us.
- 24 Who will listen to you in this matter? The portion of the one who went down into the battle will be the same as the portion of the one who remained with the equipment! Let their portions be the same!"
- 25 From that time onward it was a binding ordinance for Israel, right up to the present time.

Saul's Last Battle (c. 1010 BC)

1 Samuel 31

1 Chronicles 10

1 Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel. The men of Israel fled from the Philistines and many of them fell dead on Mount Gilboa.

2 The Philistines stayed right on the heels of Saul and his sons.

1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel. The Israelites fled before the Philistines and many of them fell dead on Mount Gilboa.

2 The Philistines stayed right on the heels of Saul and his sons.

<p>They struck down Saul's sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malki-Shua. 3 Saul himself was in the thick of the battle; the archers spotted him and wounded him severely. 4 Saul said to his armor bearer, "Draw your sword and stab me with it! Otherwise these uncircumcised people will come, stab me, and torture me." But his armor bearer refused to do it, because he was very afraid. So Saul took his sword and fell on it. 5 When his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his own sword and died with him. 6 So Saul, his three sons, his armor bearer, and all his men died together that day. 7 When the men of Israel who were in the valley and across the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned the cities and fled. The Philistines came and occupied them. 8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip loot from the corpses, they discovered Saul and his three sons lying dead on Mount Gilboa. 9 They cut off Saul's head and stripped him of his armor. They sent messengers to announce the news in the temple of their idols and among their people throughout the surrounding land of the Philistines. 10 They placed Saul's armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths and hung his corpse on the city wall of Beth Shan. 11 When the residents of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, 12 all their warriors set out and traveled throughout the night. They took Saul's corpse and the corpses of his sons from the city wall of Beth Shan and went to Jabesh, where they burned them. 13 They took the bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh; then they fasted for seven days.</p>	<p>They struck down Saul's sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malki-Shua. 3 The battle was thick around Saul; the archers spotted him and wounded him. 4 Saul told his armor bearer, "Draw your sword and stab me with it. Otherwise these uncircumcised people will come and torture me." But his armor bearer refused to do it, because he was very afraid. So Saul took the sword and fell on it. 5 When his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died. 6 So Saul and his three sons died; his whole household died together. 7 When all the Israelites who were in the valley saw that the army had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities and fled. The Philistines came and occupied them. 8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip loot from the corpses, they discovered Saul and his sons lying dead on Mount Gilboa. 9 They stripped his corpse, and then carried off his head and his armor. They sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines proclaiming the news to their idols and their people. 10 They placed his armor in the temple of their gods and hung his head in the temple of Dagon. 11 When all the residents of Jabesh Gilead heard about everything the Philistines had done to Saul, 12 all the warriors went and recovered the bodies of Saul and his sons and brought them to Jabesh. They buried their remains under the oak tree in Jabesh and fasted for seven days. 13 So Saul died because he was unfaithful to the LORD and did not obey the LORD's instructions; he even tried to conjure up underworld spirits. 14 He did not seek the LORD's guidance, so the LORD killed him and transferred the kingdom to David son of Jesse.</p>
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David Learns of Saul's Death (c. 1010 BC)

1 Samuel 30:26–31; 2 Samuel 1:1–27; 4:4

Jonathan's Son Mephibosheth is Crippled

2 Sam 4:4 Now Saul's son Jonathan had a son who was crippled in both feet. He was five years old when the news about Saul and Jonathan arrived from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but in her haste to get away, he fell and was injured. Mephibosheth was his name.

David Gives Spoils of War to Judah in Gratitude

1 Sam 30:26 When David came to Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to the elders of Judah who were his friends, saying, "Here's a gift for you from the looting of the LORD's enemies!"

27 The gift was for those in the following locations: for those in Bethel, Ramoth Negev, and Jattir;

28 for those in Aroer, Siphmoth, Eshtemoa,

29 and Racal; for those in the cities of the Jerahmeelites and Kenites;

30 for those in Hormah, Bor Ashan, Athach,

31 and Hebron; and for those in whatever other places David and his men had traveled.

David Told of Saul and Jonathan's Death

2 Sam 1:1 After the death of Saul, when David had returned from defeating the Amalekites, he stayed at Ziklag for two days.

2 On the third day a man arrived from the camp of Saul with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. When he approached David, the

man threw himself to the ground.

3 David asked him, "Where are you coming from?" He replied, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel."

4 David inquired, "How were things going? Tell me!" He replied, "The people fled from the battle and many of them fell dead. Even Saul and his son Jonathan are dead!"

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

6 The young man who was telling him this said, "I just happened to be on Mount Gilboa and came across Saul leaning on his spear for support. The chariots and leaders of the horsemen were in hot pursuit of him.

7 When he turned around and saw me, he called out to me. I answered, 'Here I am!'

8 He asked me, 'Who are you?' I told him, 'I'm an Amalekite.'

9 He said to me, 'Stand over me and finish me off! I'm very dizzy, even though I'm still alive.'

10 So I stood over him and put him to death, since I knew that he couldn't live in such a condition. Then I took the crown which was on his head and the bracelet which was on his arm. I have brought them here to my lord."

11 David then grabbed his own clothes and tore them, as did all the men who were with him.

12 They lamented and wept and fasted until evening because Saul, his son Jonathan, the LORD's people, and the house of Israel had fallen by the sword.

13 David said to the young man who told this to him, "Where are you from?" He replied, "I am an Amalekite, the son of a resident foreigner."

14 David replied to him, "How is it that you were not afraid to reach out your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?"

15 Then David called one of the soldiers and said, "Come here and strike him down!" So he struck him down, and he died.

16 David said to him, "Your blood be on your own head! Your own mouth has testified against you, saying 'I have put the LORD's anointed to death.'"

David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan

17 Then David chanted this lament over Saul and his son Jonathan.

18 (He gave instructions that the people of Judah should be taught "The Bow." Indeed, it is written down in the Book of Yashar.)

19 The beauty of Israel lies slain on your high places!

How the mighty have fallen!

20 Don't report it in Gath,

don't spread the news in the streets of Ashkelon,
or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice,
the daughters of the uncircumcised will celebrate!

21 O mountains of Gilboa,

may there be no dew or rain on you, nor fields of grain offerings!
For it was there that the shield of warriors was defiled;
the shield of Saul lies neglected without oil.

22 From the blood of the slain, from the fat of warriors,
the bow of Jonathan was not turned away.

The sword of Saul never returned empty.

23 Saul and Jonathan were greatly loved during their lives,
and not even in their deaths were they separated.

They were swifter than eagles, stronger than lions.

24 O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,

who clothed you in scarlet as well as jewelry,
who put gold jewelry on your clothes.

25 How the warriors have fallen

in the midst of battle!

Jonathan lies slain on your high places!

26 I grieve over you, my brother Jonathan!

You were very dear to me.

Your love was more special to me than the love of women.

27 How the warriors have fallen!

The weapons of war are destroyed!