

DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
TWO DEATHS . . . A STUDY IN CONTRAST  
1 SAMUEL 31



### The Heart of the Matter

Death is unpleasant. It is unattractive to see and painful to ponder. But the Bible does not ignore its inevitability or veil its reality. In fact, it is through a death (Christ's) that we find hope in God, promise of peace, and purpose for our lives. In our study of David, we have come to the crossroads in his pilgrimage from the sheep to the throne . . . from an Israelite fugitive to the highest office in the land. And it is a death that altered David's direction—the death of King Saul. Let's examine the events that led up to the death as well as what followed, unpleasant though it was.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Saul's Demise: Pathetic Tragedy (1 Samuel 31:1–6)

Saul entered into a raging battle with the Philistines, a battle which ended for him in death—his suicide.

#### 2. Philistines' Response: Sadistic Brutality (1 Samuel 31:7–13)

The Philistines invaded the cities that were once occupied by the Israelite army, exploited their victory by brutalizing Saul's body, then lost Saul's body when a few of Israel's men sneaked into the city to bring it home.

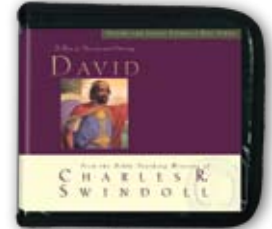


### Starting Your Journey

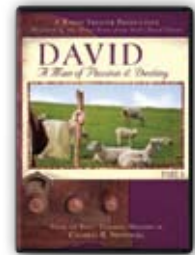
Several analogies exist between the death of Saul and the death of Christ. Both deaths appeared to be the end of all hope: Saul's ended national hope and Christ's ended spiritual hope. Both deaths seemed as though the enemy had won the final victory. Both paved the way for a new plan of operation. Both opened the throne room: Saul to David and Christ to believing sinners. And, finally, both deaths ended an era of dissatisfaction and failure.



### Tools for Digging Deeper



David: A Man of Passion & Destiny  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
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