

## Exegetical Notes – 2 Samuel 1:1-16

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### 2 Samuel 1:1-16

(In the Hebrew Bible, 1 and 2 Samuel are not divided; they are one book. They were divided in the Christian Bible because the combined book of Samuel was considered too long.)

#### Verses 1-2

**<sup>1</sup> After the death of Saul, David returned from striking down the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag two days. <sup>2</sup> On the third day a man arrived from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay him honor.**

- King Saul and his sons are dead (see 1 Samuel 31).
- David had ended the Amalekite threat and was quartered in Ziklag.
- He had been in Ziklag for two days.
- On the morning of the third day, a man arrived who had been with Saul's army. His clothes were torn, and he had dirt on his forehead. These were signs that he was in mourning.
- When he was brought to David, he fell down at David's feet to honor David.

#### Verses 3-4

**<sup>3</sup> "Where have you come from?" David asked him.**

**He answered, "I have escaped from the Israelite camp."**

**<sup>4</sup> "What happened?" David asked. "Tell me."**

**"The men fled from the battle," he replied. "Many of them fell and died. And Saul and his son Jonathan are dead."**

- David asked where the man had come from.
- The man told David that he had escaped the fate of Saul's army.
- David then asked the man what had happened, and the man told David that Saul's army had been defeated and that Saul and his son Jonathan were dead.

### Verses 5-10

<sup>5</sup> ***Then David said to the young man who brought him the report, “How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?”***

<sup>6</sup> ***“I happened to be on Mount Gilboa,” the young man said, “and there was Saul, leaning on his spear, with the chariots and their drivers in hot pursuit. <sup>7</sup> When he turned around and saw me, he called out to me, and I said, ‘What can I do?’***

<sup>8</sup> ***“He asked me, ‘Who are you?’***

***“‘An Amalekite,’ I answered.***

<sup>9</sup> ***“Then he said to me, ‘Stand here by me and kill me! I’m in the throes of death, but I’m still alive.’***

<sup>10</sup> ***“So I stood beside him and killed him, because I knew that after he had fallen he could not survive. And I took the crown that was on his head and the band on his arm and have brought them here to my lord.”***

- David wanted to know how this man knew that Saul and Jonathan were dead. He told David that he came upon King Saul just after he had fallen on his sword (see 1 Samuel 31). Notice that the story the man told and that recorded in 1 Samuel 31, do not agree. This man was telling this story to gain favor with David.
- So, the man said he killed King Saul.
- He took Saul’s crown and the amulet that Saul wore which designated his rank as king and brought them to David to prove that Saul was dead.
- The man expected to be rewarded by David for what he had done.

### Verses 11-12

<sup>11</sup> ***Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them. <sup>12</sup> They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and for the nation of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.***

- David, and the men with him, mourned the death of Saul and Jonathan and the defeat of Israel’s army.

### Verses 13-16

<sup>13</sup> ***David said to the young man who brought him the report, “Where are you from?”***

***“I am the son of a foreigner, an Amalekite,” he answered.***

<sup>14</sup> ***David asked him, “Why weren’t you afraid to lift your hand to destroy the LORD’s anointed?”***

***<sup>15</sup> Then David called one of his men and said, “Go, strike him down!” So he struck him down, and he died. <sup>16</sup> For David had said to him, “Your blood be on your own head. Your own mouth testified against you when you said, ‘I killed the LORD’s anointed.’”***

- When the time of mourning was over, David again called the man who had killed King Saul to him. Saul had been the anointed King of Israel. David asked the man why he had not been afraid to kill Israel’s anointed king.
- David ordered the man to be executed because he had, by his own confession, killed King Saul. Remember, David did not have 1 Samuel 31 before him. This was the first account he had received about what had happened to Saul and Israel’s army. So he believed the account the man had given. This man hoped to gain favor from David by lying to him.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon based on 2 Samuel 1:1-16. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. All rights are reserved by Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)