

Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

David Learns of Saul's Death

- On the third day after David had returned from defeating the Amalekites, a soldier from the army of Saul arrived [2 Sam 1:1-2].
 - It took 3 days to travel from the Philistine/Israel battlefield to Ziklag [1 Sam 30:1].
 - This means that at the same time God was blessing David and his men with victory over the Amalekites, Saul was being defeated/slain.
- David interrogated the soldier to find out about the battle [2 Sam 1:3-10].
 - The soldier said that he had escaped from the camp of Israel, but did not say how.
 - He then reported Israel's defeat and the deaths of Saul and Jonathan.
 - When David asked him further about this, he fabricated a story about what had happened.
 - In the process, he stated he was an Amalekite.
 - The soldier's story did not line up with the account given in Scripture [1 Sam 31:1-6].
 - It is likely that the soldier made up this story in an attempt to gain favor in David's eyes.
 - As we shall see, this was a grave error on his part.
- David and his men grieved over the deaths of Saul and Jonathan [2 Sam 1:11-12].
- David interrogated the soldier some more before having him executed [2 Sam 1:13-16].
 - David was incredulous that this soldier would dare raise his hand against the Lord's anointed.
 - David acted upon the evidence he had before him and called for the soldier's death.
- David then composed a lament for Saul and Jonathan [2 Sam 1:17-27].
 - David's intent was for the sons of Judah to learn this song.
 - It was written in the book of Jashar which is a non-canonical composition [Josh 10:13].
 - David did not want this song to be revealed to the Philistines for obvious reasons.
 - David praised Saul and Jonathan, but cursed the place where they had been slain.
 - He concluded this lament with a special tribute to Jonathan who had been his very dear friend.